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Almaty Summit Joint Declaration on Tajik-Afghan Issues

LD1307115994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Kanat Saudabayev, Roza Otunbayeva, and Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov, foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan respectively, discussed and issued a joint declaration on matters concerning the Tajik-Afghan border and the situation in Afghanistan during the meeting of presidents and prime ministers of these republics, which was held in Almaty last weekend.

They expressed satisfaction on the measures jointly adopted by the fraternal states jointly with Russia for stabilizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, and at the same time, the heads of the foreign policy departments expressed their concern at the armed actions of the Tajik opposition aimed at breaking through the borders and destabilizing the situation in the fraternal republic. This could have far-reaching negative consequences for the region as a whole. Particular attention was also drawn to the military activities in Afghanistan that have not been stopped.

The ministers of the three countries appealed to the fighting factions to end the fighting, and called on them to solve their problems round the negotiation table by political means. The document stresses that an important role in stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan and the whole region is being given to the implementation of the initiatives of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov on establishing a permanent working committee for matters of regional security and cooperation, and of President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on a conference for working out confidence- building measures in Asia.

The heads of the foreign policy departments appealed to the world community to support efforts to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and for a political settlement in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan are ready to act in concert with all countries of the region and are ready to start talks on speeding up a peaceful solution to the existing problems.

Akayev on Creation of Central Asian Union

LD1307161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 13 Jul 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Askar Akayev believes that creation of regional associations like the union of three Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) will increase efficiency of the CIS as a whole. Speaking at a press conference in Bishkek, Akayev voiced a supposition that the Slavic and Transcaucasian republics will follow example of the above mentioned republics. "I am convinced that integration of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus will take place, the issue concerns only the time of the conclusion of this alliance between these countries," Akayev declared.

In his opinion, the results of three Middle Asian presidents in Alma-Ata [Almaty] lay the ground for a hope that the next CIS summit scheduled for this September will make a resolute step to strengthen integration trends.

Mentioning possibility of Tajikistan's joining the Central Asian Union, Akayev noted that it will depend upon establishing firm civil peace and stability in this country. At the same time Akayev said that Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, whose peacekeeping contingents are participating in the defense of the Tajik-Afghan border will assist in stabilizing situation in Tajikistan by creating premises for its possible joining the single economic and political Central Asian space.

Speaking about probability of Turkmenistan's joining the Central Asian countries union, Akayev reminded that the leadership of this country has a traditionally restrained attitude towards participation in any collective structures within the CIS - the republic has not signed the Collective Security Treaty and the agreement on creation of an economic union. "Turkmenistan pursues this course in the sphere of its relations with its neighbors in the Central Asia, however, one should not rule out that in the near future the situation can change," Akayev said.

He underlined that despite several contradictions in the opinions between the leaders of the Central Asian union member-countries they have no principal differences. In particular, he declared about the absence of any contradictions with Uzbek President Islam Karimov and called the latter "a deep, constructive, and pragmatic politician."

Akayev believes that on the whole the course of the Uzbek leader coincides with the aims and tasks of the neighboring states and the CIS as a whole. Akayev agrees to Karimov's point of view who deems it necessary to restrict freedom of word "during the transition period." In Akayev's words, in this case one should speak exclusively about restriction of a moral-ethical nature but not about "suppression of critics." Akayev added that freedom of press in Kyrgyzstan which is not limited by anything is a destabilizing and destructive factor. Explaining his opinion, Akayev accused the Kyrgyz press of irresponsible staining of political leaders, artificial stirring of passions, and provoking conflicts between different power branches.

Kazakh Appointed To Head Central Asian Council Executive

LD1307131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 13 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Almaty, 13 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The Prime Ministers' Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, guided by a decision made by the heads of these states adopted at the Almaty meeting on establishing an interstate council and agencies, has appointed Serik Primbetov as chairman of the Executive Committee of the interstate council. He has been working as deputy head of the department for CIS countries in the office of the president and the cabinet of ministers of Kazakhstan.

This appointment was announced today.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jul

LD1407080294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 14 Jul 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on election results in Ukraine:

"Leonid Kuchma polled 52 percent of the vote and Leonid Kravchuk gained only 47 percent. Such correlation makes it clear that Kuchma's electoral win has given rise to mixed reactions in Ukraine.

"A majority of industrial workers and rural people as well industrialists and entrepreneurs welcome the advent of a pragmaticist who clearly sees economic problems and is prepared to pursue an effective economic policy. But national-radical circles regard his win as their heavy defeat".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on election results in Belarus:

"The political communities in Belarus and Russia continued to root for Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich until the last moment of the second round of presidential elections. A period of confusion has set in. It is no lesser in Russian corridors of power than in Belarusian ones, whatever the attempts to conceal that..."

"Russia is now faced with the need to decide on what should be done with Lukashenka's overstated proposals and how it would benefit from an excessive integration with Belarus, the integration to be effected not just according to rules dictated by Moscow but also to rules connected with the integration desires of Minsk."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs a commentary on election results under the headline "will a slavic union become a reality?"

The newspaper emphasises that changes that have taken place in Belarus and Ukraine have complicated the situation in the post- Soviet space rather than introduce clarity.

"One thing is already evident: the nearest future is fraught with an increase in political confrontation not only in Belarus and Ukraine but also in Russia itself which has quite a number of both supporters and opponents of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreement (on the establishment of a Commonwealth of Independent States—note by ITAR-TASS)".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Venyamin Yakovlev, chairman of supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation.

"The emergence of arbitration courts in their present form is a call of the times and the most convincing evidence that the formation of a law-governed state did begin in our country. Cardinal changes have taken place in the country's economy and the need arose for the protection of economic interests," Yakovlev pointed out.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an article by State Duma member Boris Fedorov who reflects on the course of reforms and on the democratisation process in Russia.

Touching upon the question of postponing presidential and parliamentary elections, Fedorov said "Shumeyko's statement and an obvious desire of many members to extend their own stay in the Federal Assembly and at the same time to postpone a presidential election date verge on a betrayal of the interests of the electorate. New elections should be welcomed".

TRUD on an increase of the number of jobless in the country:

"Unemloyment in Russia grows. According to trade union data, the number of unemployed has mounted up to 4.5 million or 5.4 percent of those able to work."

PRAVDA runs an article by State Duma member Mikhail Sidorov who analyses ways to raise the efficiency of foreign trade for the Russian economy.

"For the time being, we continue to incur losses. The country runs into debts, there is an outflow of capital, and the bulk of export currency revenue is concentrated by participants in foreign economic activities".

ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE on a Russia-Finland oil pipeline idea.

The idea of building an oil trunkline, to run from Russia to Finland, has been suggested by the Finnish Neste oil company to the Transneft oil pipelines building company.

The trunkline is expected to link the Kirishskiy oil processing plant and the port of Porvo near Helsinki. An oil harbour there has available storage facilities built into the rock and all essentials for the priming of tankers. The project, according to expert estimate, will cost about 300 milliom U.S. dollars, with the bulk to be paid by the Russian side.

Paratroopers To Join Abkhazia Peace Effort

MM1307115594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Russian Airborne Troops Will Now Serve in Kodori Gorge"]

[Text] An accord has been reached in Abkhazia between the Abkhazian and Georgian military, the Svanetians' armed formations, and the Russian peacemaking forces: Russian airborne troops will now supervise the normalization of the situation in the Kodor Gorge. IZVESTIYA was told this by Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, who has returned to Moscow from the conflict zone.

A 75-man paratroop company (three platoons with nine airborne fighting vehicles) will enter the Kodor River valley. To be more precise, it will be staying there, inasmuch as our airborne troops arrived in the gorge with the peacemakers' operations group last week when there was fighting at the pass. Thanks to them the bloodshed has been stopped. The UN mission's observation post will also stay in the gorge.

The Georgian troops will leave their positions there and move back beyond the demarcation line to the eastern bank of the Inguri River; at the same time they are to lay down their arms—both firearms and heavy weapons. The Svanetian formations will also surrender their weapons—only local law-enforcement organs will carry arms.

Gen. Kondratyev warned that this agreement has not yet been signed but that a verbal accord is already being observed and the formal act of signing the joint documents will take place soon.

However, the precise figures for the number of Russian peacemaking forces in the conflict zone are already known. There are 1,600 men, 143 armored vehicles, 160 automobiles, and 10 helicopters.

During their few weeks in Abkhazia the Russian troops have disarmed several bandit formations, confiscating 35 heavy armored vehicles and 60 firearms; they have also restored the road bridge over the Inguri River and removed over 11,000 mines and explosives from roads and observation post locations. However, the Inguri River valley and the forested areas along the administrative border between Georgia and Abkhazia have still not been swept for mines. This is being hampered by the Abkhazian leadership, which is trying to prevent the uncontrolled return of refugees.

But people are returning home despite the bans and the mines. According to news agency reports, around 80,000 refugees have massed in the Zugdidi region. On Monday around 4,000 women, children, and old people headed for the bridge over the Inguri. Regrettably, groups of saboteurs are infiltrating Abkhazian territory along with or under cover of the refugees.

Two automobiles carrying Abkhazians blew up yesterday on the Zugdidi-Sukhumi highway, which Russian demolition experts have already cleared of mines. Our military sources think that the explosive was planted at night by bandits, of whom many are still to be found in the outlying forests and who use mountain paths to infiltrate the security zone.

The situation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone remains tense despite the Russian peacemakers' efforts.

No Plan To Evacuate Personnel From Algeria

MM1307114394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Our People Prefer To Risk Their Lives for Dinars"]

[Text] The number of foreigners who have died at the hands of Islamic terrorists in Algeria has reached 52. Last Monday four CIS citizens were killed: a Russian—Anatoliy Nateganov; Belorussians [Belarusians] Yuriy Golenkin and Anatoliy Zavgorodniy, and a Ukrainian—Vitaliy Panasenko.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is promising to increase protection for our specialists in Algeria. There is no question of evacuating the staff of state establishments. Despite all this, Russian citizens working on contract are reluctant to leave Algeria, ignoring special service instructions. Many of them think that their chances of being murdered in Russia and the other CIS countries are the same as in Algeria. Contract workers make up almost 20 percent of the total number of Russian citizens there.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near East and North Africa Department, at present there are just under 1,000 CIS citizens—mainly Russians—in Algeria. They include diplomats, the personnel of trade and commercial missions, and specialists working on private contracts at oil and gas fields, in the metallurgical industry, and on the construction of various installations. A special regime which makes provision for heightened security measures for Russians living in Algeria has been in force since 1993, when the first acts of terrorism were committed against Russian citizens.

The four who died were working on private contracts for the Algerian oil and gas company, SONATRACH. The bus in which the specialists were traveling from work to their hotel 40 km east of the capital was for some reason unguarded. Several men wearing police uniform stopped the bus en route, pulled the passengers out to the side of the road, made them kneel down, and shot them with assault rifles.

Yeltsin Chairs Security Meeting on Kaliningrad

LD1307162494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Border security and the status of Russia's western exclave of Kaliningrad dominated the agenda of the National Security Council's meeting on Wednesday chaired by President Yeltsin himself.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Speakers of the two House of Parliament Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, Foreign and Justice Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Yuriy Kalmykov, Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov and presidential advisers Viktor Ilyushin and Yuriy Baturin. Heads of the called power ministries were also present, among them—Defence and Interior Ministers Pavel Grachev and Viktor Yerin, Chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) Sergey Stepashin, Chief of the External Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov and Head of the Ministry for Emergency Situations Sergey Shoygu.

The behind-the-scenes meeting began without a routine opening speech by the Russian President. A key report on border security matters is to be made by Commander of Russian Border Forces Andrey Nikolay followed by a co-report from FSK Chief Sergey Stepashin. Kozyrev and Shumeyko who ran for a seat in the Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) from the Kaliningrad constituency are expected to make reports on the second question of the agenda.

The Council is expected to approve a concept of fixing new Russian frontiers of various degree of transparency ranging from rigid controls of the borders with remoter countries and the Baltic states down to a softer option with CIS states involved in the creation of a CIS economic union.

On Kaliningrad, experts say the discussion is likely to center on the exclave's status as an integral part of Russia, Russian military shipments via Lithuanian territory, regional social problems and the numerical strength of Russian forces in the region.

During a recent trip to Kaliningrad, Shumeyko called for a special law on the region because of its unique status. He said that Moscow and the region must sign a power sharing agreement, with the latter's geography and socio-economic specifics taken into account.

Experts say Moscow and Lithuania had narrowed the gap on the question of Russian military shipments via Lithuanian territory following talks between Shumeyko and Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament Ceslovas Jursenas. Agreement was reached on lowering tariffs on the transit of civilian cargoes. On military shipments, the two sides said that a special agreement based on international law must be signed.

Envoy Restates Libyan Stance on Lockerbie

MM1307154794 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Report on statement by Muhammad Husni Sha'ban, Libyan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia, given to correspondents Vladimir Mikhaylov and Vladimir Shchedrin under "Continuation of Lockerbie Case" rubric; date and place not given: "The More Details You Get, the More Obscure the Matter Becomes"]

[Text] The more details you get, the more obscure the matter becomes. And it cannot be otherwise: New versions of events will appear and previously unknown circumstances come to light until a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the explosion on board the Pan American Boeing-747 is conducted and those to blame for this dreadful crime which took away the lives of the 259 people aboard the airliner and 11 inhabitants of the Scottish town of Lockerbie on 21 December 1988 are identified. And Washington and London will keep on saying the same thing, using every kind of untruth in an attempt to blame Libya for organizing the explosion—they very much want "to punish" a country which absolutely refuses to yield to those powers' diktat. New reports concerning the Lockerbie case appeared the other day. Continuing its independent investigation, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA correspondents asked Libyan Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia Muhammad Husni Sha'ban to comment on them.

Here is what he said:

[Sha'ban] New aspects of the Lockerbie case are constantly appearing, but what is interesting is that virtually all of them confirm yet again Libya's noninvolvement in the events. Unfortunately, no significance is attached to them, especially by the adversely affected parties—the United States and Britain. I will cite just two examples in corroboration of what I say.

At the beginning of 1994 another witness in the case—the executive of a Swiss company which manufactures timers—turned up. Such a device was most likely used in the bomb which caused the tragedy on Flight 103. In his statement he claimed that these timers are not produced for anyone except Libya. At any rate, that is precisely how his testimony was commented on. This was news to us, but the furor created was considerable.

A while later this figure, if we go by German sources, made a new statement which was essentially quite the reverse. He now maintained that these devices were produced for other countries, but not for Libya. An important statement! However, it was ignored.

Roughly the same situation arose with a Yusuf Sha'ban, who is now on trial in Lebanon. He appeared before the court charged with a completely different crime, but during the trial he suddenly stated that he had placed the

explosive device aboard the Boeing-747 on which the tragedy occurred over Lockerbie. This confession was made in public, the press and the other mass media immediately reported it, and the whole world learned of this voluntary statement.

Here, true, there is a legal aspect. Every confession has to be carefully verified, otherwise the court will not take it into account. A careful examination is essential and the sides have to be heard, that is to say, it is necessary to find irrefutable facts confirming or, on the contrary, refuting the truth of the statement made. In Sha'ban's case none of that was done: The confession was heard, and that was it. What does this indicate? It indicates above all that the interested parties—primarily the Western countries—are in no way striving to find the truth. Their sole aim is to accuse Libya of the crime at any price and using every available means in order to settle political scores with it.

[Text] **You have said that reports have appeared of our country's readiness to pay compensation to the relatives of those who died. Let's be clear here: Libya is ready to consider taking part in any collective actions in the provision of assistance. And not just assistance to the victims of the Boeing-747 explosion but those of other tragic incidents too. However, it must be clear that such action cannot be undertaken by Libya while sanctions are in operation against it. They must be lifted.**

I also want to make it plain that Libya cannot extradite its citizens to America or Britain on mere suspicion, as we know how things will turn out if those citizens were to appear in those two countries. I think it is possible to understand Libya here. Moreover, the suspects themselves have refused to surrender themselves to the U.S. and British authorities on their lawyers' advice.

That does not mean that Libya does not meet its commitments or carry out the rulings of judicial organs. We have always been ready to do this. An example of this would be Libya's execution of the International Court's ruling on the territorial dispute between Libya and Chad, which led to the normalization of relations between the two countries. All that Libya demands is the creation of objective conditions for a fair trial acceptable to all parties. Of course, Libya will carry out any decision made by such a court in order to settle the problem by peaceful means through dialogue.

Incidentally, different opinions and other initiatives do exist in addition to the American and British stances. For example, the Arab League has made a constructive proposal which could satisfy all sides, namely that the case be examined at the International Court in The Hague with the participation of Scottish judges. I stress that this proposal stems not from Libya—it is a pan-Arab proposal adopted at the Arab League Council. This proposal has been supported by the OAU. It is possible that it will also be supported by the nonaligned movement at its next summit, particularly as this movement has already adopted a resolution in support of Libya.

On the basis of the aforementioned we consider that the Arab League proposal, supported by the OAU, is a balanced one and, given a constructive and objective approach, could satisfy all sides and open up the way to a solution of this protracted conflict which has cost the Libyan people dearly and caused great harm to Arab, African, and other countries which closely cooperate with Libya. [Ambassador Sha'ban ends]

[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA] Our thanks, ambassador, for such detailed explanations. We hope that the truth will be discovered and that the persons really to blame for the tragedy on board the Boeing-747 on 21 December 1988 will become known.

Foreign Ministry Official on Situation in DPRK, ASEAN

LD1307163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 13 Jul 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Igor Porshnev, Yevgeny Terekhov, and others]

[Text] The head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, will attend not only the upcoming conference of ASEAN foreign ministers, but also the forum on security in the Asia-Pacific region. The two events will take place parallelly in the capital of Thailand, Bangkok, on July 21-25.

As the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's 2nd Asian Department, Nikolay Solovyov, told Interfax, at the foreign ministers' meeting Russia will have the status of "guest", as before, and at the forum on security a "considerably more solid" one - the status of "consultative partner".

According to the diplomat, the forum will focus on working out confidence-building measures. "In this connection Russia intends to concretize its proposals concerning the need to work out an arms trade code and establish centers for preventing conflicts," he said.

RUSSIAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS DEVELOP NORMALLY...

When asked about the present state of Russian-Japanese relations Solovyov said that they proceed normally. "Our ties develop, and, as far as I can judge, the new government of Japan has not altered its policy toward Russia. Russia has no intention of changing its policy either," he said.

"The territorial dispute still exists in relations between Russia and Japan," the diplomat conceded. "However the main thing is that both sides tend to promote their relations in all directions. Japan follows the policy of "broader balance", which provides for developing its

relationship with Russia in all directions. Naturally, we have nothing against this attitude," Solovyov said.

CHANGE OF POWER IN PYONGYANG WILL NOT LEAD TO AGGRAVATING NUCLEAR PROBLEM

When asked whether the change of leadership in North Korea is likely to aggravate the nuclear problem and heighten tensions in the region, Solovyov said: "Moscow would not like this to happen. We hope that the agreements between North Korea and the USA on resuming their dialogue (Interfax's note: concerning the nuclear problem) and between North and South Korea concerning a top-level meeting will materialize in full."

Because of the death of Kim Il-Song the inter-Korean summit planned for July 25-27 will be somewhat postponed, Interfax's interviewee said. "This is quite understandable, since the funeral of the North Korean leader is planned for July 17," he noted.

According to Solovyov, no Russian delegation will be present at the funeral. "Foreigners were not invited to the ceremony," he explained.

"Moscow stands for maintaining normal, correct relations with North Korea," the diplomat pointed out.

PRC Foreign Ministry Official on Defense Accord

LD1307180494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1103 GMT 13 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marat Abulkhatin]

[Text] Beijing, 13 July—"The signing of the intergovernmental agreement on preventing dangerous military activity between China and Russia is important for the development of bilateral relations. This document, which was signed during the visit to Moscow by PRC National Defense Minister Chi Haotian, will also contribute to expanding the military links between the two countries and guarantee peace, stability, and security in the region." This was the answer by a PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent regarding his assessment of the results of the talks between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian.

According to the spokesman, the agreement is not aimed against third countries and will not affect relations with them in any way.

The agreement signed in Moscow provides for preventing incidents between the two countries' armies which might arise during everyday troop activity.

Beijing Seen Gaining Upper Hand in Bilateral Relations

MK1307153094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Moscow-Beijing" rubric: "A Russian and a Chinese Are Brothers Forever Once Again. The Agreement 'On Preventing Dangerous Military Activity' Has Been Signed"]

[Text] At the beginning of the century Russian troops (after a march to Beijing to quell the Boxer Rebellion) effectively controlled all of Manchuria. The railway to Vladivostok passed through Chinese territory. In the 1920's, what was already Soviet troops that controlled the railway took part in bloody clashes with "Chinese militarists." In 1945, after Japan conceded defeat in the war, Russian troops occupied Manchuria once again, but in a few years all Russian property and military bases were turned over to the new communist government of China. The border became a zone of friendship: "Mao and Stalin are looking at us" [refrain from a song popular in the 1950's].

In the 1960's and 1970's, after fighting for the island of Domanskiy, an all-out Soviet-Chinese war seemed imminent. The border was hastily reinforced, extra divisions and brigades of the Soviet Army were moved up to the border area. At army depots extra ammunition reserves were hoarded ("for every single Chinese"). In the rear, the Baykal-Amur Railway [BAM] was built at a brisk pace in order to add elasticity and strategic depth to the would-be front line.

The BAM has never been completed, however, while the war remained in plans and on maps. At present, China is the largest buyer of Russian arms, including those that had once been prepared for the "Big War."

In the meantime, the Russian Army in the Far East and in the Baykal area is shrinking: military camps of disbanded units have been deserted and plundered, and the strength level of the divisions that still remain is lower than 40 percent. A Russian assault force has been withdrawn from Mongolia.

There is still plenty of military hardware on both sides of the Amur and the Ussuri, however, which is why it is quite natural that Moscow and Beijing are eager to negotiate specific, mutually agreed procedures for settling inadvertent incidents. Now if a plane, a helicopter, or a ship accidentally approaches foreign territory, its commander will hear at the frequency of 121.5 or 130 mHz (ultra- short wave) a polite code warning: "Close to ter-ri-to-ry" (pronunciation officially agreed upon by the two sides).

The Russian Chinese border has once again become a zone of peace and bustling border trade. The roles have changed, however, and now it is not clear who is the big brother.

Chinese customers salvage Russian defense plants and institutes from their final demise. Formerly proud "firms" are glad if at least half the contract amount is paid in cash (the rest in shoddy sneakers and all that stuff).

In St. Petersburg and Nizhniy Novgorod, shipyards operate for the Chinese—they are completing four "Kilo" class submarines that are known here as "Varshavyanka." Apart from that, they have no work, even in sight. The director of the "Krasnoye Sormovo" plant complained a month ago that the Chinese somehow managed to obtain secret specifications for the "Kilo" submarines built for our Navy and now demand that they be strictly adhered to, which, of course, raises difficulties, because former suppliers from the former Union republics no longer supply anything. "Once we finish the submarines for the Chinese, that is it—so much for the 'Kilo,'" the director concluded.

For want of budget appropriations, international treaties are signed at the Russian Defense Ministry with cheap plastic pens. But the Chinese minister, General Chi Haotian pointedly put one aside and signed the Agreement on Preventing Dangerous Military Activity with his own "golden" Parker, and then, according to an international custom, exchanged pens with Gen. Grachev. "Relations between Russia and China are getting stronger year after year," Gen. Grachev said, "Although your pen is slightly better and ours is slightly worse."

Estonian Delegation Visits Parliament, Discusses Relations

WS1307133994 Tallinn BNS in English 1105 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, July 13, BNS—A delegation of the Estonian parliament's foreign affairs commission, on a visit to Moscow, had meetings today with parliament officials and Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

The Estonian delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Commission Chairman Vello Saatpalu, met with Valerian Viktorov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, or upper house of the Russian parliament. Parties at the meeting exchanged views on issues such as the state border between the two countries, the Tartu peace treaty of 1920, as well as inter-ethnic relations, Saatpalu told BNS. The head of the Estonian parliament's foreign affairs commission said both parties at the meeting had agreed that it was necessary to hold regular consultations on the issues of inter-ethnic relations.

Saatpalu characterized the meeting as historic, as it is the first time ever that parliamentary representatives from the two countries meet at such a high level.

Also today, the Estonian delegation met with members of the foreign affairs commission of the upper house of the Russian parliament.

Next on the visit's agenda was a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, focusing on Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia and whether Estonia would grant full social guarantees for retired Russian military living on its territory.

Saatpalu in his comments to BNS said Moscow's position of linking the troop pullout to whether or not Estonia will grant full residency rights to the Army retirees remained unchanged. "Russia is not going to compromise," the head of the Estonian parliament's foreign affairs commission said. Saatpalu also said the meeting had not discussed the clear "no" pronounced by President Boris Yeltsin in answer in Naples Sunday to a question whether he will withdraw troops from all Baltic countries by Aug. 31. Neither did the parties discuss possible dates for a Estonian-Russian presidential summit, he added.

The delegation is scheduled to have meetings Wednesday with representatives from different Russian parliamentary commissions.

Adviser Calls for Wider Contacts With Belarus

LD1307163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Senior presidential adviser for economic matters Aleksandr Livshits says Moscow must promote wider contacts with Belarus except the creation of a common ruble zone. In an interview with Interfax, he denied being opposed to the ruble zone. However, Livshits is against rushing monetary union with Belarus amid uncertainties about a possible change in its president's economic policies. "I think we must wait and see what happens there before offering a huge money supply to Belarus," he said.

On the prospect of relations with Kiev following Leonid Kuchma's victory in the Sunday [10 July] run-off for the Ukrainian presidency, Livshits said that "at any rate, things won't get any worse than they are now. The situation will either persist or slightly improve which is always good."

Agreement Signed With Belarus on Environmental Issues

MM1307140594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Arkadiy Glazkov: "One World"]

[Text] An agreement has been signed in Smolensk between the governments of Russia and Belorussia [Belarus] on environmental protection. The document stipulates the state's duties in respect of the joint use of water in the basins of the common Dnepr and Western Dvina rivers and also includes demands on improving the ecological situation on the territory of both republics.

Economic Conference With Japanese Opens in Sakhalin

OW1407061294 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 1905 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Lyudmila Shapka video report; from the "As of This Hour" newscast]

[Text] The Japan-Russia conference on economic cooperation opened at 1000 hours today [2200 GMT, 10 July] in the large hall of the oblast administration building. Eighty Japanese businessmen are participating in the work of the conference, the aim of which is to identify and discuss economic projects which have priority, and to determine possible Japanese investors. Viktor Sergeyevich Belousov, vice president of the Russian Industrialists and Businessmens Union, told of the huge interest in these issues in Moscow, and expressed hope that today there will be a shift to concrete projects. He considers that one should not simply wait for economic stability but bravely press ahead into today's economic market.

Mr. Yoshida, representing the Japanese side, noted some factors hindering the expansion of the Japanese-Russian economic exchange. As a rule, capital naturally moves to where there are safe and profitable projects. Cooperation with Russia and Sakhalin in particular, is first of all, a great political risk. Inadequate regulations; freezing bank accounts of local enterprises; the complicated system of taxation with a high level of taxation; and the frequently changing system of customs procedures are just some of the factors. Additionally, there is the problem of the provision of infrastructure, and rising crime in the oblast, and as we know, everything is important in business. Despite this, Japanese businessmen are currently our principal partners in trade and other forms of cooperation.

Here are the figures mentioned by Nikolay Petrovich Dolgikh, deputy head of the administration in his report: In 1993 alone, trade turnover was $206 million, which is more than 50 percent of all export-import operations. As of 11 July, there were 112 Russo- Japanese enterprises registered in the oblast. Sakhalin is a guaranteed source of supply of raw materials for Japanese industry and, in exchange, we not only expect automobiles and consumer goods but, first of all, restoration of the oblast natural resources, development of the woodworking and fishing industry infrastructures, and training of specialists. The activities of such magnates as (Vpilingagoda), Diana, Troyka, and (Sakhalin-Tariko) are an example. However, out of the 47 possible projects the following have been selected: The construction of (Solntsevskiy) coal section, (Solntsevskiy) GRES [State Regional Electric Power Plant], (Vakhrushevskiy) GRES, the Ilinsk-Uglegorsk railway line, and the tunnel under Proliv Nevelskogo. The potential producers and future consumers of goods and transport services are here today at this conference. What investment stakes these gentlemen will make we will find out later, after the conference finishes its work in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. We will advise you as soon as concrete decisions on the proposed investment projects are made.

Hokkaido Mayor Winds Up Visit to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

LD1407064094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0608 GMT 14 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, July 14 (TASS)—"A suggestion by Nikolay Pokidin, mayor of the South Kuril district, that Japanese fishermen be granted the right to catch marine products in the area of South Kuriles on a commercial basis will be supported by the governorates of Hokkaido and Sakhalin region," Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi told a press conference here on Thursday.

The Japanese guest, who is winding up his three-day visit here, added that the two sides agreed to set up a joint advisory body at gubernatorial level on fishery problems—the joint uses and reproduction of marine bioresources.

"However, Japanese and Russian Governments' permissions are necessary for Mr. Pokidin's proposal to be implemented. The two governorates agreed to make maximum efforts towards the attainment of this end," the guest pointed out.

In response to a question asked at the press conference by the ITAR-TASS correspondent, the Hokkaido governor pointed out the need to establish business contacts between the secret services of the two countries in the fight against organised crime which is being increasingly internationalised.

At the same time, despite the markedly developed nature of relationships between Sakhalin and Hokkaido, which was pointed out at the press conference, the Japanese governor once again brought it to the notice of those present that Japan regards the four South Kuril islands as its own land.

The Hokkaido governor is to leave by air for home on Thursday night at the close of the visit.

Agreement Reached With Lockheed on Space Freight Unit

LD1307122794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The U.S. Lockheed Corporation and the Russian Space Center (RSC) ended talks at the weekend by reaching agreement on the joint development of a functional cargo unit for the international Alfa orbiting station, head of the RSC's international cooperation department Aleksandr Kondratyev told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

However, he said the contract itself running at "hundreds of millions of dollars" would probably be signed in the middle of next January. Kondratyev said the delay was caused by the fact that federal allocations to help Lockheed finance the project were planned for next fiscal year due to start on October 1.

The functional unit designed for navigating and correcting the orbit of a would-be international station is to be fired first into outer space.

The 20-[metric] tonne unit also intended to help dock Russian and U.S. modules to the station will function as one of its parts for 13 years or more. It is to be launched with the help of a Russian-built heavy duty Proton booster from Baykonur cosmodrome (Kazakhstan) in May 1997.

Chernomyrdin Makes Speech on Africa Policy

MM1307112394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Golts: "Russia Again Declares Its Interests In Africa. And Not Only There"]

[Text] The conference of Russian ambassadors to African countries, which began on 12 July, outgrew the narrow framework of a departmental event at the very outset. Representatives of the leaderships of various ministries and departments and of the State Duma are participating along with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The conference was addressed by Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Boris Yeltsin's message to the conference participants set the tone of the discussion. It stresses that Africa was and remains a Russian foreign policy priority.

This idea was crystallized by Viktor Chernomyrdin. He highlighted three aspects of Russian national interests in the region. First and foremost, the strengthening of all-around political collaboration with African states. At the same time, it is a promising region from the viewpoint of the development of trade and economic relations, particularly as the necessary experience and potential have been accumulated in this sphere. Finally, like all responsible members of the international community, Russia wants to see all the transnational problems facing Africa resolved. The political and social degeneration of the continent is fraught with the gravest global consequences, including for Russia, which has already encountered the problem of the uncontrolled migration of Africans from zones of armed conflicts.

But the importance of relations with Africa notwithstanding, the Russian leaders, in my view, used the ambassadors' conference platform to declare once again the priorities of our policy and their willinginess to uphold them not only on this continent, but in other regions as well. It was no accident that Viktor Chernomyrdin offered the meeting a detailed economic analysis of the economic situation in Russia. A situation which, despite the problems caused by declining production and the painful industrial restructuring process, a degree of stabilization is in evidence. And using this, as well as a number of successful steps concerned with integration in world economic institutions, such as the EC and G-7, as a springboard, Moscow is setting itself new tasks in relations with the developing countries.

We have to create new cooperation models, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed. The arguments amounting to assertions that we must trade only because we are losing the positions we acquired before, will not do. We must clearly appreciate that really productive relations of cooperation can only be based on the principles of mutual advantage.

A splendid example of this is military-technical cooperation, on the problems of which the Russian Government head dwelt in particular. It must be borne in mind that the hiatus in this area could have an adverse effect and is already affecting the advancement of our interests. Other countries, including countries producing weapons on Russian licences, are actively filling the vacuum that has occurred. Often the weapons are of a much poorer quality.

At the same time, the high quality of Russian armaments is no guarantee that they will sell profitably. In Africa, 60 percent of whose armaments were produced in Russia, you have to ensure that the leaders of the countries that are Russia's partners appreciate that there is no going back to the old practice of preferential credits for arms purchases. And the Russians must appreciate that fierce competition in the arms market is an objective reality. And no one is going to cede part of this market to us out of the goodness of his heart. What is required is painstaking work to promote Russian armaments on the African market. Bearing in mind, of course, states' objective needs and, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, their ability to pay. But resorting to a dumping policy is unacceptable. If a partner does not have the means to purchase new armaments, then there will still be opportunities to supply spare parts and repair, modernize, and revamp the Soviet-made arms it already has.

There has already been some progress in resuming military-technical cooperation in Africa, although the bulk of the work lies in the future. The establishment of relations of this kind with Djibouti, Namibia, and Sierra Leone and the resumption of relations with Ethiopia and Angola have been agreed on. A corresponding decision on South Africa is in the pipeline.

As we can see, Russia seriously intends to uphold its economic and political interests in the developing countries. And the military component of these interests is very significant. And I am not just talking about military-technical cooperation, the expansion of which, as Andrey Kozyrev said, does not conflict with Russia's efforts to safeguard security in the world, but, in fact, boosts them. Moreover, according to the foreign policy department chief, it is not inconceivable that in the

future Russia will establish its own military bases not only in the CIS states. But also in other countries wanting Russian guarantees to strengthen their security.

Plight of Russians in 'Near Abroad' Debated

MM1307085394 Moscow TRUD in Russian
9 Jul 94 pp 1-2

[Roundtable discussion with Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of Russian Government; Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Compatriots; Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of Executive Committee of Congress of Russian Communities; and Vladimir Sipachev, president of "Aeroflot" Bank, moderated by Yuriy Lepskiy and Yuriy Sovtsov under the "Compatriot: TRUD Business Club" rubric: "'Old' Russians in the 'New' Abroad: How Are They To Be Helped and With What?"]

[Text] [TRUD] Permit us to open the first session of our business club. As is customary in a business club, we intend to get down to work without superfluous words or, rather, to proceed to the first item in today's discussion.

Migration of the Russian-speaking population from the states of the former USSR is growing. What is Russia to do in this situation: receive refugees and migrants and help them to get settled or endeavor to ensure that they do not move from where they are? Does the state have an unequivocal answer on this?

[Rogozin] I represent a nonstate organization, but I would, nevertheless, like to open the debate so as to put the question in full, so to speak.

Let us picture the actual situation. As a result of the breakup of the USSR more than 25 million people have been left outside Russia's borders, essentially without citizenship. They were citizens of the USSR, but to this day no juridical acts exist which clearly record the loss of Soviet citizenship by these 25 million people. In this juridical vacuum Russia must assume responsibility for their fate. Because a simply awful situation is now taking shape for these people. For example, if a Russian person living in Kazakhstan wishes to confirm his Russian citizenship today (of which, incidentally, nobody has deprived him), he has to collect approximately 20 certificates—after which he is automatically deprived of the right to private property, to hold a residence permit, and to engage in hired labor. There is nothing left for him but to travel to Russia.

According to our data, during the next two years alone more than 6 million migrants will come to Russia from the former republics of the USSR. In accordance with the Russian Federation Government's decision, the Federal Migration Service must issue 1 million rubles [R] to each of these 6 million people to help them to get settled. I will not say now that this money will suffice only to feed a migrant—I hope this is clear. I wish to draw your attention to something else: It will be necessary, in all, to allocate more than R6 trillion, or $3 billion. Is a state which has a foreign debt of $80 billion capable of doing this? Of course not. Add to this the fact that these 6 million—people virtually with ruined lives—will swell the considerable detachment of the unemployed and homeless and will exacerbate the already very acute crime situation in Russia's large cities. Does the government understand this? Does it realize what threatens us? We see this danger, and so we are endeavoring to do all in our power to resolve the problems of compatriots in the countries of their permanent residence....

[Shakhray] I will endeavor to answer simultaneously both Dmitriy Rogozin's questions and the question of the moderators of the TRUD Business Club. Yes, we do understand quite well the sheer acuteness and complexity of the situation. This is precisely why we cannot promise either Russians or compatriots in the states created on the territory of the former USSR an instant, miraculous solution to all problems. But we have prepared a well thought-out action program. In confirmation I will say that in literally a few days' time we expect the publication of a whole package of very important state documents devoted to the problems of compatriots. These are, above all, a presidential edict, then the Concept of the Russian Federation's State Policy on Compatriots Living Abroad, and, finally, a special decree of the Russian Government on measures to support compatriots abroad (in the states formed on the territory of the former USSR).

But now, if you will permit me, a few more details. First, we believe that Russia bears international legal responsibility for citizens of the former USSR who have not gotten equal and proper status in the new states. For some reason nobody objects when Russia assumes obligations to repay the Union's debts, but not everybody likes Russia's right to show concern for its compatriots who still hold passports of USSR citizens. We realize that while the independent states are being formed and until the juridical status of people whom we call either the Russian-speaking population or ethnic Russians has been clearly fixed, we will be at the stage of a transitional period, and the methods and forms of Russian guardianship of compatriots will largely correspond to the quality of this "transience."

We know, for example, that our compatriots in the near abroad have different juridical statuses today, or else these are totally lacking. First, we are dealing there with Russian citizens who are permanently resident on the territory of these states. Then with people who possess dual citizenship. Third, there are citizens of the country of residence who ethnically are Russian. Finally, there are people who have been refused citizenship for various reasons. Each category of compatriots has had its own methods and forms of assistance drawn up.

Of course, we realize that we have to act on two fronts, as the saying goes. We must give a worthy welcome in Russia to migrants from those states, setting aside territories for them to live in which the state is interested in

settling, and giving them all possible assistance to get settled. We must protect the interests and rights of compatriots in countries of their permanent residence. For this we should, above all, ensure that our subjects in those countries have a clear juridical status. I mean citizenship.

[TRUD] Nonetheless, Sergey Mikhaylovich, what are the state priorities here: to work with migrants in Russia, or to reduce the flow of them by showing concern for compatriots on the other side of the border?

[Shakhray] It is easy for me to answer your question. If you will allow me, I will simply cite a line from the draft document of which I have already spoken. "...The strategic line of Russia's policy toward compatriots abroad is to promote their voluntary integration into the political, social, and economic life of the new independent states and their adaptation to local culture while preserving their own cultural identity...."

[Zatulin] I will venture to specify some concepts. Our compatriots in a number of former union republics can hardly be called a diaspora, since they make up 40 and more percent of the population of these states. In Kazakhstan, to be sure, approximately 40 percent of the population are Russians. But if we speak of those who have the right to vote, then the ratio between the Kazakh and the Russian electorate is 50/50. Thus, we are dealing with absolutely nonstandard problems and situations. Accordingly, the solutions to these problems must also be nonstandard. This is the first point. Second, it is perfectly obvious that we will not solve these problems by trying to settle all repatriates in Russia. Although today a large number of Russians simply see no way out other than to move to Russia. This is particularly characteristic of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia, where there is a real threat to people's lives.

The most effective tool for resolving the problem, in our view, is Russia's well thought-out, principled foreign policy in respect of states where a considerable number of our compatriots live and where their rights are infringed. It must be realized that this is a sphere of Russia's special national interests. Unfortunately, our government's official policy in this sphere began to change only under the influence of last December's election results. Until then the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs preferred to treat Kazakhstan or Ukraine like, let us assume, France or Germany, not wishing to notice and take responsibility for the fate of compatriots in the new abroad. Incidentally, I believe it would be right to call these states the new and not the near abroad, if only because for the inhabitants of Russia's Far East the near abroad means China or Japan, rather than Ukraine or Kazakhstan....

[Rogozin] If we cannot avoid a stream of migrants in the next few years, then we must at least treat them in a humane and solicitous way, must we not? For migrants are, as a rule, highly qualified people and excellent professionals. We must not do what we did when we sent a professor of a mathematics department who arrived from the Baltic region to be a teacher in a rural school. Let us not forget that 82,000 migrants from Russia are today working in prestigious universities and laboratories in the United States, 8,000 in Italy, and 2,500 in Britain. Eight out of 12 people in one of the leading departments at Harvard are ours. They have managed to dispose of our migrants in a solicitous way, and we should do the same in order at least somehow to make good the brain drain to the West.

[TRUD] We would prefer to channel the discussion in the direction of the new abroad.

In what specific way can Russia help its compatriots in the former USSR republics?

[Shakhray] The weakness of our policy toward countries in the new abroad is determined, as a rule, by the country's economic weakness. But, even in straitened circumstances, we can already do quite a lot. What specifically are we planning? Support for enterprises which employ primarily the Russian population. This means direct investment, participation in share flotation, the creation of transnational corporations and financial-industrial groups, and banking support. Support for Russian newspapers, theaters, and schools. In the future we will take into account, above all, the interests of our compatriots by granting credits to the states where they live....

[TRUD] Pardon me. Sergey Mikhaylovich, is everything you mention already enshrined in the government decree?

[Shakhray] Not only this is enshrined but also some other things. For example, the introduction of privileges in trade and economic relations with those states of the new abroad which ensure in full the rights of compatriots living there. Or the redemption from these states—including when repaying their debts to Russia—of the property of those enterprises where compatriots predominate among the working people.... Of course, we are also activating Russia's private business in every possible way, creating tax breaks, a simplified customs setup, and exemption from dues for entrepreneurial structures which support compatriots.

[Sipachev] A specific proposal, if you will allow me. Our bank recently bought Radio Roks. This is already quite a well known radio station. Its zone of stable reception extends to the majority of countries in the new abroad. We are prepared to work for compatriots, but we need support at the state level. Not financial but, rather, legal support. We need interstate agreements which would enable us to work for compatriots on the territory of these states.

[Shakhray] We have included in the Russian Government's draft decree a point obliging the appropriate departments to hold talks with the governments of these states on the conclusion of agreements on establishing Russian-language radio and television programs and

press organs, as well as on the unimpeded functioning of these mass media, provided they abide by the legislation of the corresponding state. Of course, in addition to this, we also intend to help the existing Russian-language mass media in these countries.

[Rogozin] It is known that in Estonia, for example, 84 percent of all entrepreneurs are Russian, and 80 percent in Latvia. Russians are the main taxpayers into these states' budgets, and Russians essentially maintain the governments which strip them of civil rights. The situation is simply absurd. The chief question here is how to create an opportunity for Russian capital in Estonia or Latvia, so that our businessmen can invest free funds in their own schools, theaters, etc. How are they to be enabled to earn sufficient funds? I believe that Russian capital in the new abroad must be introduced into the regime of Russia's domestic market.

[Zatulin] I am convinced that by creating privileges for Russian business in Estonia we will, in the final analysis, create privileges for Estonia. The attempt to single out Russian entrepreneurship and take it outside the framework of the state's unified economy is doomed to fail. In my view, we are again putting the cart before the horse. First it is necessary to secure the removal of discrimination against Russians' civil rights in these countries and only then begin economic projects with the Russian-speaking diaspora....

[TRUD] Does it not seem to you, Konstantin Fedorovich, that while we are trying to get Estonia to repeal discriminatory legislation, children will be growing up in the Russian-speaking diaspora who will have to be taught Russian in Russian schools which the Estonian state has no intention of maintaining? Somebody has to pay the teachers in these schools tomorrow, not in 10 years' time....

[Zatulin] I don't want you to get the impression that we are procrastinating or doing nothing in this direction. In the committee we are now working on a draft law on most-favored-nation treatment of a foreign state in trade and economic cooperation. If this law is adopted, then the rights of Russians in these countries will be directly linked to economic advantages. Work is under way on a law on refugees and enforced migrants. A draft law will soon be ready on the status of border regions in oblasts and republics within the Russian Federation....

[Rogozin] I will venture to return to the economic part of the debate. It seems to me, Konstantin Fedorovich, that you do not have a complete picture of the potential that we actually possess. I will cite an example. We set up a trading house jointly with the Russian community in Moldavia [Moldova]. The outcome was an excellent result in the local elections. I wish to say that sooner or later our businessmen in the new abroad will start to become politicians and enter the power structures themselves or bring their own pwople into them. Then they will resolve themselves the problems of which we have spoken today, at the state level, not the interstate level. But, for this, they must be given the opportunity to find their feet.

How can this be done? It seems to us that targeted assistance in the new abroad should be given not to Russian business in general but only to those entrepreneurs and enterprises who really help Russian people in these countries. How can we find out what kind of enterprises these are? Very simply. Russian communities in the new abroad are ready to give Russian parliamentarians and the government appropriate recommendations.

[Zatulin] You speak of Russian communities in the new abroad as monolithic and large organizations. But they represent small models of Russian society, which is split into political groups with different political views and even different ideology.

[Rogozin] The point is precisely that the Russian community in the states of the new abroad today unites communists, monarchists, and democrats. Because all three groups have the same chief problem—defense of their civil and ethnic dignity and of their human rights. You will agree that human dignity and the guaranteeing of civil rights come before all else and are more important than everything else, including political differences.

[TRUD] It seems to us that these words can serve as a worthy conclusion to our session, particularly as concepts such as human, ethnic, and civil dignity can unite not only our compatriots abroad but also us in Russia.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Asked To Take Charge of Border Guards

LD1307142594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The country's border forces must be under the President's direct control because of their special place in the national security system and the specific tasks facing them, press secretary of the Chief Command of Russian Border Troops Aleksandr Suvorov told INTERFAX.

As an argument, he pointed to Yeltsin's decree of December 30, 1993 to form a federal border service. Suvorov was commenting on Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's latest statement about the need to unify all but Interior Ministry troops.

The press secretary quoted Yeltsin as saying at a meeting of border troop commanders two months ago that the new service must become the main organizer and coordinator in forming and implementing the country's border security policies. "The question is not one of a mechanical merger, but of coordination and cooperation as demanded by the situation emerging on various parts of the border," Suvorov said.

As an example, he pointed to joint actions carried out by border troops and Russia's 201st Motorized Division on the Tajik-Afghan border and two joint operations (Putina-94 and Zaslon) involving Russian warships and border guards in the country's Far East.

Suvorov said a concept for border security, reform of border troops and other key documents had been worked out for making the Russian border forces an independent structure.

Security Council Discusses Border Issues

MM1307144394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "High Fence Will Not Be Erected on Russian Borders"]

[Text] The issue of the Russian Federation's state borders, which has been postponed several times, was examined at the Security Council's 13 July session. And with the participation of all top officials—the president, leaders of both houses of parliament, and the prime minister. B. Yeltsin proposed without any introductory speeches that Colonel General A. Nikolayev, commander in chief of Border Guard Troops, deliver a report, and the session was subsequently held in camera.

It ended two hours later and, as this IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by Security Council Secretary O. Lobov, it adopted the following decision—to elaborate a federal program for strengthening state borders, to improve customs controls, and to regulate border issues with neighboring states with a view to preventing illegal migration. In this connection the president gave the leaders of the relevant departments specific instructions.

Lobov said that all the Security Council members gave their opinion of the report delivered by the commander in chief of Border Guard Troops. In view of the prolonged debate, a discussion of the second point on the agenda—Kaliningrad Oblast—was postponed.

The overall approach was as follows—the state's border security should be safeguarded within the framework of the law on borders and the coordination of the activities of all the power departments.

Lobov did not talk about the nature of the Kremlin debate, but there is reason to believe that the arguments were heated. On the eve of the opening of the session [Defense] Minister P. Grachev unexpectedly and sharply expressed to I. Rybkin and V. Shumeyko, leaders of the houses of parliament, his dissatisfaction with the border policy that was taking shape. "A state cannot have two armies," he said—referring to the huge manpower of the Border Guard Troops as an autonomous power structure with considerable material resources. "Armed Forces funding is thereby being reduced and the draft intake shortfall is reaching 50 percent.

I. Rybkin and A. Kozyrev [as published] tried to amicably reassure the minister, but he replied with a soldier's directness: I cannot be happy when my men are already lying down on the railroad tracks....

It is hard to say just how sincere Pavel Sergeyevich was being. Possibly his indignation was not spontaneous but had been prepared for the benefit of the journalists in attendance so as to ensure that Army people could see him fighting for their interests. Nonetheless, he did voice his attitude to the matter under discussion.

We have learned from authoritative sources that no "high fence" will be erected on Russia's borders—this principle is not part of the federal program.

Views Border With Kaliningrad

LD1307124294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] A sitting of the Security Council chaired by President Boris Yeltsin was opened at 11:00 in the Kremlin Wednesday. It is to discuss issues on Russia's state border and on state policy with respect to the Kaliningrad Region.

According to observers, the agenda of the sitting has defined the composition of its participants; Vice Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin [as received], Chairmen of the Federal Assembly's Chambers Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev, Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov, Secretary of the Security Council Oleg Lobov, and the president's aides Viktor Ilyushin and Yuriy Baturin attend the meeting. All the "power ministries" are represented by their heads—

Defense and Interior Ministers Pavel Grachev and Viktor Yerin, leader of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin, leader of the Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov, Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu.

The sitting, being held behind closed doors, was started without the traditional key-note speech by the president. Commander of Russian Border Forces Andrey Nikolayev is delivering a report on the first item of the agenda, Sergey Stepashin is expected to deliver a co-report.

Kozyrev and Shumeyko, who was elected to the Federal Council from the Kaliningrad Region, are expected to address the sitting with their information and proposals on the second item of the agenda.

The sitting is to confirm the concept for organization at the new Russian borders along degrees of "transparency"—from the most strict border lines being between the Russian Federation, foreign countries and the Baltic states, to a softer variant with CIS countries who are participating in the creation of the economic union.

As far as the Kaliningrad Region is concerned (a Russian exclave which has no common border with the Russian Federation), experts predict that the sitting will primarily concern itself with its status as an integral part of Russia, with problems of transit between the region and the Russian Federation via the Lithuanian territory, with social problems of its citizens, and with the strength and composition of armed forces in the Kaliningrad Region.

Problems Facing Yabloko, Yavlinskiy Blocs Viewed

MK1307132094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya under "Purge in the Yabloko Faction" rubric: "Malicious Heretics Were Burned in Magnificent Autos-Da-Fe"]

[Text] At the second try, the "deputy execution" of Vladimir Lysenko took place after all. Yabloko's 12 July session voted by 21 votes out of 28 to expel him from the faction. The faction members took Lysenko's defense speech as a "ridiculous attempt to repent," and, stigmatizing him as an "immoral political double-dealer," punished him according to his deserts.

The essence of discord between Yavlinskiy and Lysenko is as follows. After giving vent to his outrage with the actions by the executive branch this past October, Lysenko started drifting toward cooperation, as affirmed by his signature under the "Russian Moncloa pact." He sees Yabloko's future as lying not in just one party but in a bloc of right-of-center parties. Yavlinskiy, on the other hand, needs a party structure to "suit himself"—a kind of ideologically consistent pedestal from which he would look good in the halo of his reputation unblemished by practical activity. The faction is preparing a political declaration on the proposition that the electorate's trust can be kept only by decisively dissociating itself from the sins of the executive branch. "No support to the Provisional Government," so to speak.

The outcome of the ,divorce is sad for both sides. Lysenko is at the head of the republicans whose party is heading toward its fourth anniversary with 5,000 to 7,000 active members. The party will have to, in the figurative expression of one of its members, energetically "puff its cheeks" in a bid to stand out in the flea circus of domestic political diversity. Yabloko's prospects are little better. Having launched a discipline drive, Yavlinskiy risks being left with only the company of his EPIcenter [Yavlinskiy's think tank] associates. Rumor has it that Anatoliy Golov, Social Democratic Party leader, is ready to abandon the faction. He abstained from voting on Lysenko. Valeriy Borshchev, a member of the Russian Christian Democratic Union, described the faction's decision as a "serious mistake. He voted against. Vladimir Lukin (the "L" in YaBLoko), who several months became leader of the Moscow Regional Party, is also known for his loyalty to Lysenko. The most interesting part is that Yavlinskiy's closest associates—Shostakovskiy and Yakovenko—who left the republicans for him and have gone ahead with creating a "Democratic Alternative Party," say that their boss is totally indifferent to their idea. According to some reports, Yavlinskiy intends to form his own party. There is no information so far about his partners in this undertaking.

'Accord for Russia' Seeks Government's Dismissal

MM1307150394 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Afanasyeva under the "Yesterday" rubric: "Leaders of 'Accord' Not in Accord With Government"]

[Text] At a press conference Tuesday the leaders of the "Accord for Russia" movement briefed journalists on the statement "On the Socioeconomic Situation in the Country." You could tell even from the names of those present (and Gennadiy Zyuganov, Vasiliy Lipitskiy, Stanislav Govorukhin, Sergey Glazyev, and Aleksandr Tsipko were present at the press conference) that they do not like the socioeconomic situation. Summing up the results of the 5 July hearings at the State Duma, the authors of the statement expressed resolute disagreement with the government's course, "which has led to the impoverishment and demoralization of the majority of the population...and which the vast majority of the electorate voted against 12 December."

Setting out in a four-page address facts, figures, and percentages demonstrating the "destruction of an economically powerful state," the "SiR" members (this abbreviation of the movement's name has already become firmly established in political circles) asked the

following questions: "Why is the government ignoring the officially proclaimed tasks of economic policy? In whose interests is the actual policy and not merely the declared policy being pursued? What about the signatories to the Social Accord Treaty, whose key provisions are clearly being ignored by the executive"?

Instead of answering those rhetorical questions the authors of the statement suggest that the Duma examine the question "On confidence in the present Council of Ministers." Putting it in simpler terms, the present government should be dismissed while there is still an opportunity to halt the country's slide into socioeconomic catastrophe. "There cannot be any more confidence in the government's present policy," the members of "Accord" believe. They are ready to present their own program immediately. "We have the forces and the expertise which will enable this program to be implemented."

The logical conclusion is that the Communist and Democratic Party of Russia factions in the Duma are ready to begin the battle to oust the Chernomyrdin cabinet from office. Under the new Constitution deputies will find this difficult and dangerous to do: The specter of the dissolution of the Duma looms. It remains to be seen whether other factions are prepared to take that risk.

Confidence Vote Shows Democrats Back Government

MM1407093594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Andrey Kolesnikov: "Voting in Vote of No Confidence in Government Showed Who Really Supports Chernomyrdin Cabinet"]

[Text] Following the ill-founded rumors of the current premier's replacement by the present chief of goods producers, the opposition launched its latest trial balloon.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] started the ball rolling in the Duma last Friday [8 July] by raising the question of a vote of no confidence in the government. Zhirinovskiyites, most Communists, Agrarians, "Vlasovites," and "New Regional Policy" voted for the motion of no confidence in the Chernomyrdin cabinet. The government was saved by the democrats, including "Russia's Choice" and Yabloko.

This "unnoticed" event could turn into a situation similar to that in October. As is well known, under the constitution after the Duma has declared it has no confidence in the government, the president has the right to dismiss the government or to disagree with the State Duma's decision. But if within three months the Duma again declares it has no confidence in the cabinet, the president dismisses the government or disbands the Duma.

A realistic, albeit improbable, scenario. Let us ask ourselves the question: What does all this mean?

First, as in December 1993, Zhirinovskiy's supporters are acting as a sociological thermometer: They appear wherever it is really hot. Right now it is hot in the field of a future confrontation between the left-wing nationalist section of the Duma and Federation Council and the government. Communists and patriots, together with professional lobbyists, have seen through Chernomyrdin, who is pursuing a completely monetarist policy. That is the reason. Grounds have also been found: The "sellout of Russia" that was planned after the work of the "Chernomyrdin-Gore" commission and the second stage of privatization, presented in the Duma by Chubays "in a boorish way." A watershed in economic policy has been drawn in boldface, the rubicon of reforms has been crossed. Parliament is morally prepared for a revolt.

Second, the conflict that occurred in the Duma showed that, despite the opinion of superficial observers, it is by no means the bloc of left-wingers and nationalists which is supporting the government in critical situations. The voting on the budget and in the vote of no confidence has absolutely different reasons behind it. It must also be borne in mind that during the voting on the budget the communists' and patriots' attitude toward the government and, importantly, the hopes associated with it, were somewhat different from what they are now. It is necessary to have a very prejudiced attitude toward the government to consider the LDPR a pro-government party. The left-wing nationalist opposition does not want such a cabinet of ministers—it has finally defined its preferences. In its current relatively balanced composition the government to a greater or lesser extent suits the democratic factions. Maybe it was only during the voting in the vote of no confidence that they themselves realized the price of this attitude.

The unpleasant conflict in parliament is another reason for analysts from the Presidential Staff to ponder the position the president should take in this kind of critical situation.

Deputy Defense Minister Defends Coup Leaders' Actions

LD1307163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel-General Boris Gromov said today he believed the actions of the coup leaders in August 1991 were prompted by dire necessity and aimed at preventing the collapse of the country. He was speaking as a witness at the trial of the former Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Valentin Varennikov who was one of those involved in the coup.

In August 1991 Gromov was the Soviet Deputy Interior Minister. He said the situation then was very grave. "I knew that the country's leadership had lost control over

the situation and in my opinion the Politburo (of the Soviet Communist Party) and the president were responsible," he declared.

Answering questions from the prosecutor, court and defendant Gromov said no plans to storm the parliament building on August 20 had been made. He said that the conference at the General Staff on August 20 discussed possible army and police actions to prevent the concentration of people near the building and the disarmament of persons illegally carrying weapons in the White House. However, the plan never assumed final form because the idea was given up for fear of bloodshed.

Edict on Protecting Constitutional Court Revoked

MM1307130794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 94 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Chronicle"]

[Text] The Russian president has issued an edict "On Deeming Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1612 of 7 October 1993 To Have Partially Lapsed." Under the new edict Paragraphs 6-8 of the old edict are deemed to have lapsed. These paragraphs refer to the protection provided for the Constitutional Court buildings and the formation of the Department for the Protection of Top Judicial Organs. These provisions are being annulled with a view to streamlining the protection of organs of state power.

Deputy Criticizes Draft Bill on Presidential Oath

LD1407091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 14 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—An influential Russian lawmaker and lawyer Boris Zolotukhin described an attempt made by the parliamentary opposition to pass a law on the "oath of the president of the Russian Federation", as political speculation.

This draft bill drawn on the initiative of the factions of communists, agrarians and liberal democrats, is now being examined by committees and commissions of the State Duma. Under this draft law, the Russian president shall swear allegiance to the people despite the fact that he has already done this once. According to the suggested draft bill, if the president fails to take the presidential oath, the presidential post is considered to be vacant.

"This initiative, put forward by lawmakers from the factions led by Zyuganov, Lapshin and Zhirinovskiy, is a disguised attempt to attack the president using underhand means which have nothing to do with law," Zolotukhin said. He went on to say that provisions of the new Constitution dealing with a transitional period and which was adopted in a nationwide referendum clearly specifies that the president, elected on the basis of the Constitution in effect then, continues to exercise his powers until his term in office expires. "Therefore, there are no grounds to submit this draft bill to the Duma for discussion," Zolotukhin said. "This is a political act aimed at destabilizing society," he added.

He reminded of the fact that neither the previous constitution, nor the Constitution in effect today stipulates that the president should swear allegiance if a new constitution is adopted. "Theoretically, several constitutions might be adopted throughout the president's term in office," Zolotukhin said. "Therefore, the president, when taking his oath as he has already done once, pledges to observe and protect the Constitution which is in effect during his term in office," the lawmaker said.

Economic Issues

Chubays Confident Yeltsin To Sign Privatization Decree

LD1307180594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 13 Jul 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Robert Serebrenikov]

[Excerpt] Moscow July 13 TASS—Russia's privatisation chief Anatoliy Chubays said that whatever may happen President Yeltsin will sign a decree on the continuation of privatisation in Russia.

In an interview with BUSINESS-TASS on Wednesday, Chubays said that "it is time for the president of Russia" to act, following the State Duma's decision to postpone the adoption of the state programme of privatisation of state and municipal enterprises after July 1, 1994.

He expressed the confidence that the president's decree on post-voucher privatisation will be signed as it involves millions of people who must get some rules of game in privatisation.

Chubays said he plans to meet with President Yeltsin shortly in order to set the date for signing the decree.

Chubays walked out of the State Duma session after ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy suggested "dividing the state property by the number of breadwinners and dependents." At the same time he admitted that some of the proposals made during the debates were "healthy and reasonable."

Russian lawmakers did not approve the government's draft law on the second stage of privatisation in Russia, voting 91-186 to return the document for review. For the draft law to pass it needed to be approved by 226 deputies. [passage omitted]

Chubays Discusses Privatization

LD1307205294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Interview with Anatoliy Chubays, Russian deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property, by correspondent Nikolay Svanidze on 13 July, place not given; from the "Details" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Svanidze] How do you assess the results of today's hearing?

[Chubays] As very sad. They are very sad in the sense that the lower chamber of the Russian Federal Assembly, a political body responsible for making decisions, has failed to make any decision. It has failed to adopt a decision either in support of or against privatization. It has even failed to adopt a decision to try to set up a commission that will work out a decision. It has failed to do anything and this fact is very sad.

What is the reason for the position of the Communists and Liberal Democrats? It is not by accident that Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, wild and furious, jumped on the rostrum immediately after the discussion of the question. All this demonstrates the political impotence of these people and their inability to perform state duties.

[Svanidze] What will be your next moves?

[Chubays] First of all, I need to talk to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, to tell him about the results of the discussion, and to agree the time of the signing of the presidential edict on continuing privatization. Besides, we are having a big meeting tomorrow—the government's session. I need to prepare for it.

[Svanidze] Judging by your remarks last week, during the first hearing, you expected the president's edict even then. You are expecting it again now. Are you sure it will eventually appear?

[Chubays] I am confident of this because last time Boris Nikolayevich—I talked to him after that session and he asked for my proposals. I answered that it was worth giving the deputies an opportunity to adopt a decision, I mean, to give them this opportunity and wait till Wednesday to hear yes or no, so that it is clear whether the State Duma has its stance. This is what I told Boris Nikolayevich. He agreed with me. His position was the same. This time the decision will be made.

[Svanidze] It was absolutely clear a long time ago that privatization in its Chubays-government-president version was doomed in the Duma. All Chubays' behavior shows that he is waiting for and expecting support from a very different direction—from President Yeltsin. Do you think that now the president's turn has come?

[Chubays] Absolutely. For how long can the country watch what is going on in this room? This is not a matter of relations between Chubays and Rybkin. This is a matter of hundreds of thousands and millions of people who should receive some rules or other. But there should be some rules. In the situation when the Federal Assembly is unable to give an answer to this question the president should do this. He will do this.

[Svanidze] According to information available to us, the presidential edict could be signed as soon as tomorrow. If this is the case, it means that the Belorussian and Ukrainian experience has affected Yeltsin in a very definite way, that is, it has raised his resoluteness. Good day.

First 3 State-Run Enterprises Declared Bankrupt

LD1407112794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1009 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Russia's first three state-run enterprises—Moscow's Experimental Vitamin Factory and Montazhzapchast supply enterprise, and a branch of Murmansk's Mekhanobr plant in the Kola Peninsula—have been declared bankrupt.

The bankruptcy documents were signed last Tuesday by Director-General of the Federal Department for Bankruptcy Sergey Belyayev.

Director of this department's industrial division Yevgeniy Myagkov told the Financial Information Agency that these enterprises would be led out of their crisis using individualized plans.

The property of the Moscow vitamin factory, which develops know-how for the production of medicines, will be sold out during an investment auction. Myagkov said that the factory's specialization will remain the same.

The Kola branch of the Mekhanobr plant which develops methods of ore processing, will be closed and its property sold at an auction. The money thus earned will be used to repay debts to the creditors.

The Montazhzapchast enterprise is to announce its bankruptcy voluntarily. If the managers refuse to do so, legal action will be initiated against them in accordance with the law on bankruptcy.

Federal Assembly

Deputy Criticizes Chubays During Privatization Debate

LD1307142094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Report over video by correspondent Kuznetsova; From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today deputies of the State Duma decided not to confine themselves to speeches during the debate on the draft law on privatization. Deputy Marychev, for instance, has given a real performance.

[Marychev] I am representing the Liberal Democratic Party. The Marychev placard says: Chubays is the pain of 70 million Russian citizens. Let me hand this placard to Mr. Chubays.

[Kuznetsova] The chairman of the Ownership Committee has recommended that parliament should adopt the privatization law on the first reading, provided there is further revision. That would show if the lower house is capable of making decisions of state importance. Otherwise, Sergey Burkov believes, we might find ourselves on the fringe of the privatization process. However, the speaker was immediately accused of playing into Chubays' hand.

Those speaking against the privatization law were the Agrarian Party, Women of russia, the Communist Party, and the LDPR. Anatoliy Chubays had to hear much criticism again today. Insulting remarks were shouted out from seats, too. [Video shows Chubays being interviewed]

[Chubays] If the criticism had been tough and constructive, motivated by the desire to sort things out, I would have been prepared to reply to it and expound my arguments. But what is involved here are just contrived fabrications and buckets of dirt being poured upon your head. To this my reply is simple: I will pay in kind to any of my opponents. Today, the Duma has its last chance to show that it is a normal political institution.

[Kuznetsova] Whether the Duma will be able to make use of this chance remains to be seen at the evening session.

Duma Fails To Approve Draft Law on Privatization

LD1307164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 13 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow July 13 TASS—Russian law makers did not approve the government's draft law on the second stage of privatisation in Russia on Wednesday.

The parliament discussed the draft in the first reading and voted 91-186 to return the document for review. For the draft law to pass it needed to be approved by 226 deputies.

The lawmakers agreed to submit alternative documents drawn up by the Russian Federation, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and Russia's Choice member Grigoriy Tomchin to the Duma's economic committees. Duma experts will study them and see if they can be combined into one single document.

Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin expressed the hope that the committees will act promptly and work out a document quickly so that the Duma could discuss it on July 21-22.

Earlier, the government's programme of privatisation was supported by Russia's Choice, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord and the Democratic Party of Russia. The faction of the political movement "Women of Russia" and the deputy group "New Regional Politics" said it could be adopted in the first reading but "without haste."

The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, the Communist Party of Russia and the Agrarian Party voted against the draft, explaining their decision by the fact that it "does not meet the people's interests," "opens up broad opportunities for speculations," "criminalises the situation in Russia," "allows for the sale of land which is not legally registered" and does not offer an analysis of the results of the first stage of privatisation in the country.

Duma Adopts Law on Media Coverage of State Activities

LD1407100994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 14 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The State Duma has adopted a law today "on the order of covering the activities of bodies of state power by the state-run mass media".

The law envisages that the state, federal audio-visual mass media shall ensure that statements and addresses made by the Russian president, chambers of the Federal Assembly, the Russian Government, be broadcast in full via at least one nationwide channel at the time convenient for radio and TV audiences and no later than at 24:00. The same applies to the ceremony of inaugurating the Russian president, the opening of the first session of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly and the opening of the first session of the Russian Government.

Under the law, control over the implementation of the law shall be exercised by the Federal Commission for TV and Radio Broadcasts.

After the law was passed by the State Duma, it will be submitted to the Federation Council and the Russian president for approval.

Regional Affairs

Kaliningrad, Polish Officials Discuss Cooperation

WS1407112994 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by N. Borovskaya: "Poles Will Lose the Russian Market If They Engage in Trade Only"]

[Text] If our Polish partners do not move from trade to production cooperation, they will be forced out of the Russian market in two or three years by competitors from Germany, Great Britain, and Scandinavia, Yuriy

Marochkin, head of the Kaliningrad Oblast administration, told Polish journalists at a press conference in Olsztyn, Poland. Matochkin paid a short visit to that city on his way home from Warsaw, where the first official meeting was held of Russian and Polish Government representatives to discuss economic cooperation issues. Yuriy Matochkin and K. Korona, plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian and Polish Governments, examined organizational issues concerning the work of a council specifically established to implement decisions of two sets of Russian-Polish round-table discussions. They agreed to convene the council's first meeting in September. The council will include several heads of voivodships [administrative units corresponding to Russian oblasts] bordering Kaliningrad Oblast.

There are currently 19 voivodships interested in entering the oblast's market. This market, however, is not big enough for all of them to participate. Poles should more aggressively make their way into Russia through our region, Yuriy Matochkin emphasized.

The Olsztyn Voivodship serves as a good example of efficient cooperation. Yu. Matochkin and J. Lorenc, the voivodship's head, decided to launch joint production efforts without waiting for official documents to be adopted.

Polish farmers already cultivate land in some parts of Kaliningrad Oblast, and grow rape along with our own farmers. In Olsztyn Voivodship, we have found a new partner (replacing the former one from Kwidzyn) who will help us to complete the construction and begin production at a fruit and vegetable processing plant. With the help of neighbors in Olsztyn, two small meat and milk processing plants will be built in our oblast.

At a meeting in Sopot, Poland, organized by Kaliningrad Oblast and Gdansk Voivodship, companies from Olsztyn established contacts with Bashkorkostan. From that republic, they will import black oil and oil in exchange for food.

Shortly after the press conference, Yuriy Matochkin made an inspection visit to the border, because he has received reports that the Bezledy-Bagrationovsk crossing point is only operating 18 hours a day—well under its actual capacity. The shorter working hours result in huge lines of trucks and cars traveling in both directions.

Mordovia Communists Hold Conference

MM1307132794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Bobkov: "Communist Party of the Russian Federation Ranks Swelling"]

[Text] Saransk—Tiny Mordovia was the venue for a meeting the other day of communist-oriented patriotic forces. It was a seminar-cum-conference of secretaries of Volga-Vyatka region city committees and rayon committees of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, conducted by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee Presidium.

It was no accident that they chose Saransk as the conference venue. Right-wing radical parties did not gain support at the elections on 12 December last year in Mordovia. Some 70 percent of the electorate cast their votes for the "For Unity and Justice" national patriotic movement (the core of which is the republic organization of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation) and elected three Communists to the Federal Assembly.

The party is alive and well and gathering strength. In the presence of all the conference participants V. Zorkaltsev, deputy chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee, presented party documents to young people who have joined the communist ranks in Saransk.

International Affairs

Kuchma Questions Kiev Signing Proliferation Treaty

AU1307150094 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev, 13 July (AFP)—Ukraine's President-elect Leonid Kuchma on Wednesday [13 July] said Kiev might not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) until next year, when it comes up for renewal.

"I am going to look at this question (of the NPT) anew. It must be examined closely, but this treaty expires in 1995 and a new treaty must be renegotiated at that time," Kuchma said.

Energy Official Reports on Oil Debt to Russia

LD1307185194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Speaking on local radio on Wednesday the Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Oil and Gas Committee Volodymyr Yena announced that his country owes Russia a total of 239.5 billion rubles for supplies of oil and oil products in 1993. For this reason, he said, in 1994 Ukraine has not received Russian oil products under a government agreement. What the country has been getting is on a clearing basis through the Nordex company. Ukraine pays back by shipments of metal and farm products.

Yena said he believed that Ukraine should pay its 1993 debt to Russia to resolve its energy problem. This can be done only on the basis of additional credits, he said.

The annual needs of Ukraine are for 44 million tonnes of oil products: 10 million tonnes of gasoline, 14 million tonnes of diesel fuel and 20 million tonnes of fuel oil. Ukraine extracts 4 million tonnes of oil.

In 1993 Russia delivered 19.293 million tonnes while the agreed quota was 19.5 million.

National Affairs

Kuchma Holds First News Conference 13 Jul

LD1307222494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Leonid Kuchma held his first, unofficial, as he emphasized, news conference in Kiev today after he was elected president of Ukraine. It was held in the Ukrainian House. Correspondent Anatoliy Komirenko has more details.

[Komirenko] At the beginning of his meeting with Ukrainian and foreign journalists, Leonid Kuchma, the newly elected president of Ukraine, asked to pass his thanks via the mass media to all the electors who took part in the voting, thus making the presidential elections valid. He promised the journalists to maintain regular contacts with them. He also expressed the hope that the press and other mass media will really become the fourth power in the Ukrainian state.

The news conference by Leonid Kuchma did not last long, somewhat more than 30 minutes, however, in my opinion, it was laconic and businesslike. He got down to answering questions almost instantly and, answering a question on his attitude toward political opponents and the mass media that did not support him in the course of the election campaign, said the following:

[Kuchma] "If I begin by looking for the enemy in our state, nothing good will come of it. I want to cooperate with you, I say this sincerely. You yourselves know too well how it was. On the last day...[pauses] I feel pity, but I would like to say again that I am not going to return to these issues."

[Komirenko] The journalists wished to know about the possible changes in the government headed by Vitaliy Masol, and about the prime minister himself. Leonid Kuchma's reply was as follows:

[Kuchma] "I will fulfill my promises to the people of Ukraine without fail, and without fail I will deal with economic issues, first and foremost, because these are the main problems facing our state today.

Second, I am convinced...[pauses] I have already met Vitaliy Masol. Today we understand each other and we have no contradictions whatsoever. As far as changes in the government are concerned, these will take place without fail. As for the head of the government, we have him today, this is also true. So, we will cooperate."

[Komirenko] What will be the first edicts after the inauguration of the president of Ukraine? Mr. Kuchma emphasized:

[Kuchma] "True, the first edicts have been virtually drafted. I would still like to work on them with Vitaliy Masol, as they say, we have understanding on the issues of taxation policy, the fixed exchange rate and mutual settlements [words indistinct], those issues that today keep our economy chained up. This is awful, as they say. So, such edicts already do exist and, second, as I have already said and now confirm this, order should be established in our home. There is world experience along these trends. Over this time we have studied it to a certain extent and, without fail, we will try it on our state, too, as they say. So, these are the two main issues today facing the president, as they say, and the government, and the people of Ukraine."

[Komirenko] Also, the journalists put the following question to Leonid Kuchma: Will the newly elected president take an active part in the constitutional process in Ukraine? After all, there is an impression that the

current Supreme Council will try to liquidate the institution of presidency as such, or significantly restrict the functions of the head of state. Mr. Kuchma gave the following answer to this question:

[Kuchma] "I have not yet had an in-depth conversation with Mr. Moroz. Nevertheless, I think I will convince him that it is not necessary to do something that should not be done. I am deeply convinced that our state needs the institution of presidency, at least today, as they say. If we build something like France, even then it will be necessary to think about it. I do not believe that it will be possible to cancel the institution of presidency."

[Komirenko] Regarding the future taxation policy Leonid Kuchma pointed out the following:

[Kuchma] "There is a great interdependence, as they say: The higher the taxes, the lower the budget revenues. Thus, we put the producer under pressure. Therefore, this pressure should be relieved, and I am convinced that production will grow, as they say, and the budget revenues, as they say, will increase."

[Komirenko] Those present at the news conference were also asking Leonid Kuchma whether or not the newly elected president will disappoint the trust of those people in Ukraine who gave him preference at the presidential election? The answer was laconic:

[Kuchma] I have always said, and I can stress this again today, that I have cheated anyone. I have always spoken the truth. Therefore, I am convinced that I will fulfill my pre-election promises to people, I will do without fail what I promised to do."

[Komirenko] Regarding his future foreign political course Leonid Kuchma said the following:

[Kuchma] "I would like Ukraine to have a long-term foreign policy that will not change depending on where the president or the chairman of the Supreme Council went. This was a regular practice, as they say. At least for the next 10 years. [Word indistinct] we have not had such a policy. I am convinced that we will work toward that end without fail."

[Komirenko] The journalists wished to know the president's point of view concerning the state language in Ukraine and his attitude toward the western region of the state which, as is known, supported his rival in the latest presidential election. Leonid Kuchma gave the following answer to this question:

[Kuchma] "As far as the language is concerned, I have said from the very first day till now that there should be one state language in our state—the Ukrainian language. The state should render every possible support to the development of Ukrainian culture, and so on. Over the past few days, as they say, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk has also been saying during his visits to Kharkov, Donbass, and Odessa that he was in favor of bilingualism."

[Komirenko] Regarding possible financial aid to Ukraine's economy on the part of the leading countries of the West, Mr. Kuchma emphasized:

[Kuchma] "I will do everything that depends on me, I will meet everyone I ought to meet. We require this aid. This is true. Unfortunately, over the past time we have not received even a penny for these purposes because of our policy, as they say. Without this we will not get out of the crisis ourselves, and one should understand this. I have long understood this and I would like all people in our state to understand this, too."

[Komirenko] At the end of the news conference Leonid Kuchma assured the journalists:

[Kuchma] "We will have meetings regularly, without fail. I believe this will be for my benefit, as the president, and for your benefit, too, so that you could learn my views not from somewhere else, but from me personally. This will be done without fail."

[Komirenko] A report on the news conference by Ukraine's President-Elect Leonid Kuchma, was filed by Anatoliy Komirenko, Radio Ukraine.

Says No Change in Policy

LD1307181394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 13 Jul—"Ukraine does not intend to change its economic and political course," newly elected Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma said today at a news conference. He expressed hope that "Western countries will cooperate with Ukraine and help it to carry out its economic reforms." At the same time, the president stressed that "the rules of the game should remain constant." On its part, Ukraine wants to attract Western investors. No one intends to apply any expropriation in regard to them, Leonid Kuchma noted.

Views Relations With Western Regions

LD1307182194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Leonid Kuchma, the newly elected president of Ukraine, today held his first news conference.

Answering journalists' question about forging relations with Ukraine's western regions that failed to back him in the election, Leonid Kuchma said: "I will Work for the benefit of Ukraine and not in the interests of separate regions."

Answering a question on any expected changes in the government, Ukraine's newly elected president announced that it was possible they will take place in the

very near future. He said he had already had a meeting with Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and they had found a common language.

Leonid Kuchma's assessment of actions by the Supreme Council of Ukraine with regard to People's Deputies Volodymyr Hrynyov and Pavlo Kudyukin was negative. Leonid Kuchma added that the Supreme Council should exemplify abidance by the law.

Asked by a UNIAN correspondent about his administration's members-to-be, Leonid Kuchma answered that this issue was still to be settled conclusively, but he will continue to work with his electoral support team, namely his adviser Dmytro Tabachnyk, Valeriy Pustovoytenko, his electoral campaign's former chief of staff, his political adviser Petro (?Leleko), Oleksandr Volkov, his adviser on economic issues, etc.

Outlines View of Presidency

LD1307154294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] I am the president of Ukraine and I shall work for the benefit of Ukraine as a whole, not the interests of separate regions. This statement was made today by Leonid Kuchma at his news conference in Kiev. He told journalists that some of his first directives are now virtually ready but are still in need of some work jointly with the Cabinet of Ministers. I have no differences with the government, Leonid Kuchma underscored. We shall work together.

Leonid Kuchma then described his vision of our state's foreign policy, which, in his view, should be a long-term one. I would be glad if Western countries would really cooperate with our state in implementing market reforms, rather than making declarations, he said.

Answering a question on bilingualism, Leonid Kuchma noted that there should be one state language: Ukrainian. Speaking about the institution of presidency in Ukraine, the head of state emphasized that it is needed today. As for relations with Russia, Leonid Kuchma insisted that they should be strategic by nature and should develop but not at the expense of [relations with] other states.

Kuchma's Record as Prime Minister Criticized

WS1407083894 Lvov VYSOKYY ZAMOK in Ukrainian 9 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by Ivan Pavlenko: "About Certain 'Achievements' of Kuchma and His Government"]

[Text] From December 1992 to June 1993, the amount of power wielded by the government, and by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma personally, was unparalleled among CIS leaders. His powers could only be compared to the powers that Boris Yeltsin enjoyed between the October coup attempt and the new Duma's convocation.

So, how did Kuchma dispose of them?

One of the first moves in executing his powers was the cancellation on 9 December of the mechanism for adjusting the population's income. The social protection system, which until then had somehow managed to work, collapsed, throwing more than 12 million underprivileged Ukrainian citizens below the poverty line.

On 30 December, the Ukrainian people received a New Year's gift in the form of a decision to regulate salary funds, which mounted insurmountable obstacles to any increase in their well-being.

The conclusion is clear: The present extremely low level of Ukrainian citizens' income was programmed in December 1992.

Kuchma cared just as much about the development of commerce. For example, his so-called edict No. 2 allowed Ukrainian citizens to open hard currency accounts in authorized banks. It failed, however, to specify for what purposes those deposits could be used. As a result, the currency went to finance imports of low-quality products, in other words, Snickers bars, chewing gum, juices, and the like. This prompted young people to engage in trade and stimulated racketeering, corruption, and Mafia operations.

Propelled to power by a wave of slogans calling for an anti-corruption campaign and boosting production, Kuchma in fact did his best to keep production to a minimum, hurting the interests of workers, both rural and urban white collar.

The excessive value-added tax together with the excise tax produced an incendiary mixture that scorched the hopes of Ukrainian workers. Our products became uncompetitive; and the fact that we partially lost the Russian market is a result of Kuchma's pathetic edicts.

A state is only strong when it treats all producers equally, has no pets, and when everyone plays by the same rules. Kuchma violated this fundamental principle.

His system of benefits and privileges became destructive for manufacturers, encouraged imports of hard currency, built enormous fortunes for some enterprise directors, and virtually plunged the Ukrainian economy into the mire of corruption. As a matter of fact, Kuchma encouraged that which he supposedly was fighting against.

In a culmination of his activities, Kuchma eliminated hard currency regulations by introducing on 5 August 1993 the infamous exchange rate that proved the crowning blow to Ukrainian exports.

Kuchma is also the "Godfather" of the state's foreign debt because he crippled the system of energy supplies to Ukraine. This was an unbearable burden for the country—Ukraine's debt to Russia alone amounts to $3 billion. This is the fee for a year-long semester of Kuchma's teaching.

The tragic nature of Kuchma's activities is that the Supreme Council distanced itself from handling socio-economic issues and prevented the president from influencing those processes. In fact, it was a period of "economic dictatorship," and many "economic mines" that he planted at that time keep exploding even today.

Background to Kuchma Poll Victory Viewed

MM1407090394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Topical Commentary" by Boris Sverdlov: "Ukraine: Parliament Promises Support"]

[Text] Donetsk—And so, Ukraine is now headed by President Leonid Kuchma, newly elected by all the people. He appealed to the hearts of almost 15 million voters, constituting 52 percent of those who took part in the elections. He won in 14 districts out of 27. And in oblasts such as Donetsk, Lugansk, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, and Crimea, an average of 80 percent of people voted for Leonid Danilovich. At his first news conference, in Dnepropetrovsk, he said:

"The people have supported me because I have always been sincere with them, even at the most difficult times. Both in terms of my doubts and my intentions."

...I recall the latest serious unrest among the Donbass miners. At that time, when Kuchma was chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, they demanded the early reelection of the president and the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. And, strange as it may seem, they did not say a single bad word about the government or its head. Although it was, after all, at that time that the republic's economy began to fall apart, prices went up not even daily but hourly, and an avalanche of crime buried the cities and settlements. It seemed that things would turn out badly for Leonid Danilovich too. But it was precisely during those troubled days that his popularity, rather than falling, actually rose several points. Everyone understood that the misfortunes that had befallen them had as it were been brewing long before Kuchma came to power. They also knew that the government he headed had prepared dozens of good drafts of economic laws to be ratified by the Supreme Council but which had gotten lost in the labyrinths of parliament.

Even at that time the prime minister was forced to state publicly that Ukraine could not survive alone, and that the breaking of ties with Commonwealth countries, primarily with Russia, would not lead to anything good. With enviable constancy he insisted on Ukraine joining the CIS as a full-fledged member. It was he who, a little later, well aware of the sorry state of the economy, persuaded Kravchuk to divide the Black Sea fleet in half, sell his half to Russia, and lease Sevastopol. But before a week went by the president had forgotten his promises. And many people then realized that the executive essentially had no power.

But Leonid Danilovich himself, tired of tilting at windmills, so to speak, handed in his resignation.

The 56-year-old ex-prime minister, who had given almost one-third of a century to Yuzhmash, the largest production association in the former Union, was then supported by Ukrainian directors and elected president of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. In this post he doubtless once again became aware of the republic's slide into the economic abyss, which would ultimately lead to the loss of an independence not yet properly established. Leonid Danilovich was no longer able to reconcile himself with this and decided to join the fight for the presidential post. Although he realized that fighting Kravchuk, a professional politician and diplomat, would demand maximum energy. And he triumphed over the party in power despite the narrow information space which the central mass media created for him and tough pressure on the part of the national radicals. And whereas in the first round he lagged 6 percent behind Kravchuk, in the second round he outstripped him by 8 percent.

People's Rukh leader V. Chornovil's opinions on this subject are of some interest. He had attributed the reelection of the president to the unpleasant course of the economic reforms. The time of reckoning has now come, he said. But Rukh very much wants to cooperate with the new head of state.

The first people to congratulate Kuchma on his election as president of Ukraine were Supreme Council Chairman A. Moroz and Prime Minister V. Masol. In response, Leonid Danilovich stated that he is prepared to work with the Supreme Council and the newly created government in the name of Ukraine's prosperity.

G-7 Summit Outcome, Clinton's Reasoning Viewed

WS1307150994 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 12 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Sergey Rakhmanin: "Clinton Considers 'Ukrainian Question' To Be Primary in the Mechanism for Resolving East European Problems"]

[Text] The decision to earmark over $4 billion (plus $200 million for the closure and reconstruction of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant) for Ukraine is an important step on the path to the world community's recognition of our state. This is how the position of the "seven" has been assessed by many politicians, who participated in the recent G-7 summit, and the Italian media. The fact that the final communique devoted no less space to our country than to Russia, and more than to all of Eastern Europe, is very significant, despite the fact that the sum proved to be smaller than expected.

Although there have been several versions as to why the "seven" (or more precisely Clinton, who determines the climate in this political club) turned its face toward our country, the most plausible are as follows: First, the U.S.

leader was seriously concerned over the comeback staged by leftists, the return to nuclear issues, and possible political destabilization in our country. The promise to give money does not mean that the funds have already been earmarked (as was the case, by the way, after the Tokyo summit, when $24 billion was promised to Russia, but according to Yeltsin, less than half of that sum has actually been allotted). Nevertheless, the "seven" had to raise our hopes, all the more so, since the area of nuclear power engineering is really worrying the world's leading countries. This does not only relate to environmental safety, but to economic—mercantile—aspects as well. There was also a third moment in Clinton's reasoning. The leaders of Latvia and Poland had made him think by talking about Russia's increasing ambitions. His line demonstrated at the "great seven" meeting was a deliberate political game—to partially satisfy Russia's ambitions and to simultaneously display support for Ukraine. The special situation of our country had been emphasized in both Warsaw and Riga, and Clinton then stated that he considers the Ukrainian question to be primary in the mechanism for resolving East European problems. The United States wants to see Ukraine stable and independent. To obtain the promised aid, our state must speed up economic reforms and, primarily, introduce a mechanism for liberalizing prices and privatization.

Speaking about Russia, Clinton noted that this country and its president have passed the democracy exam, and at the next summit in the Canadian city of Halifax, Russia will become a full member of the prestigious club. Clinton termed it ironically "The seven and a half club." Many issues concerning the expansion of Russia's functions in global politics will most likely be addressed in Washington, which Clinton invited Yeltsin to visit on 27-28 September. One should expect that among other issues discussed at that meeting will be the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

The "seven" pledged to help Russia join GATT quicker, and remove trade barriers, including the proliferation of high technology.

Japan and Great Britain were against the transition of the "seven" into an "eight" (or seven and a half, if you prefer). Canada, Germany, and, after all, the United States were wavering. Judging from information obtained on the sidelines of the summit, the idea to grant powers to Russia was initiated by France and Italy. Major was practically the only one man who had a specific opinion regarding the Ukrainian question—he did not consider it necessary to allot such a significant amount of economic aid.

Although no one had doubts that it is necessary to earmark money for the Chernobyl plant, the "great seven" members insisted on an unconditional and quicker decommission of the Chernobyl power units in accordance with safety norms, as well as on drafting a plan for structural reconstruction of the nuclear power industry. In this way, the "seven" will have an opportunity to influence the production, and subsequently, export of electricity in Ukraine. For Russia, such a decision means a loss of its market for technology. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin stated that Russia opposes attempts by Europe and the United States to force it out of the CIS market. He also noted that the Russian Federation wants to participate in the contracts for reconstructing the Chernobyl reactors on an equal footing.

Regarding Yeltsin, he seemed quite confident, despite his unequivocal situation. He told journalists that "the Russian bear will not crash open the doors," as well as that he is pleased with the summit and hopes that Russia will be bargaining on a parity basis, and the "seven" will do everything possible to facilitate that. For the first time in many years we do not ask for money, Yeltsin stated. Regarding the money promised to Ukraine, Yeltsin did not make any comments on this decision by the "seven" at a news conference held jointly with the U.S. President.

Gas Deposits in Donbass Enough for 'Next 1,000 Years'

WS1407102794 Donetsk DONBASS in Russian 5 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Oleg Plutalov: "The Gas of Donbass"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Donbass has enormous gas reserves, indeed. One of our richest gas deposits is situated in the north of our oblast, in the area around the cities of Kramatorsk, Druzhkovka, and Konstantinovka. Its center is in the village of Pchelkino, or to be more exact, under one of its bus stops. Excuse me for making a joke, but U.S. astronauts [who provided data on the exact location of the gas deposits] have not discovered America. Our geologists had long ago drilled test wells, specified contours, and approximated the capacity of these gas deposits. A tentative estimate of output stands at some 113 trillion cubic meters. Given current needs, our Republic will be provided with enough gas to last for the next 1,000 years. [passage omitted]

Due to the initiative of the "Uralmash-Liman" joint venture—with its headquarters in Kramatorsk—and the "NKMZ" association, researchers have begun designing a mobile drilling unit weighing some 100 tonnes. Russia and Belarus will cooperate in this project because the unit will be installed on the chassis of a BELAZ truck and Uralmash will provide the drilling machinery. Our national enterprises will participate in this project as well.

Production of drilling derricks is part of the "Donetsk Oblast Gas" project, which has been developed through a joint venture with several Ukrainian research organizations. This document is rather comprehensive and we, obviously, have no opportunity to discuss its essence in detail. We should, however, pay attention to two moments. First of all, any state-run or private enterprise—which can invest reserves or provide the joint

venture with necessary material, spare parts, or other equipment—can participate in the implementation of this program. In the future, partners will have a share in the extracted gas. Second, serious attention is paid to environmental issues. Such environmental abuses which were committed by oil and gas magnates in Siberia and Shebelinka—which is not that far away from us—are entirely ruled out. Researchers from not only the near abroad, but from the West, in particular Germany, will also participate in this project.

A reader might say that this, however, refers to the future, while currently we are endangered by an oil "famine": Now the Russian Ministry of Gas Industry strikes the table with a fist, now Turkmenistan behaves capriciously. The joint venture "Uralmash-Liman" cares not only about the future but about the present as well. A highly productive well is currently being drilled in the north of our oblast, close to the village of Drobyshevo. Consumers will receive gas in early October. Therefore, the quickness of the opening up of new energy deposits sitting under our feet will depend on the amount of assistance rendered by oblast authorities and enterprises to the "Uralmash-Liman" joint venture.

Parliament Declares Some Election Results Invalid

LD1307123794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1105 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Supreme Council this morning approved at its first reading the law of Ukraine "On the exclusive (maritime) economic zone." The law stipulates that the coastal state has an economic right to areas adjacent to its territorial waters. Most countries have similar laws in line with a UN convention, and therefore sovereign rights to exploration, development, and preservation of natural resources, to the creation and use of man-made islands and their minerals, to scientific research in the sea, and to freedom of shipping and flights.

Deputies viewed the document favorably, noting however that the provision on the size of the area being up to 200 international nautical miles in width may weaken Ukraine's rights, therefore it would be sensible to set up a fixed borderline at 200 miles. The deputies also voiced proposals to increase liability, including criminal liability, for violations of the law, and to add a strict ban on any waste dumping in the zone.

The discussion highlighted the need for an Azov Sea protection program. It is planned to set up a parliamentary commission to study the situation in the Azov Sea.

Parliament also discussed the draft Supreme Council resolution introduced by the provisional mandate commission "On declaring invalid the election of people's deputies in Suvorovskiy constituency No. 300, Odessa oblast, and Radyanskiy constituency No. 376, Kharkov oblast." A report said that a number of violations of the electoral law were discovered in the constituency where Volodymyr Hrynyov ran as a parliamentary candidate. These include violations of candidates' equal rights to campaign coverage, overspending of the candidate's campaign funds, violation of the rules of campaigning through the media, and extension of voting at the polls by nearly one hour.

In Pavlo Kudyukin's constituency, the mandate commission revealed violations of more than 10 articles of the electoral law. Some of those cited include the issuing of 18 types of campaign posters and the installation of food counters at polling stations.

During the discussion, members of the Inter-regional Deputy Group demanded to be shown documents confirming the facts and asked for a secret ballot on the resolution. But this was rejected, and Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz emphasized several times his opposition to individual voting, saying that he knew facts of deputies' persecution. The resolution was approved by 205 votes for and 49 against.

It is yet unclear whether Volodymyr Hrynyov and Pavlo Kudyukin will be allowed to run in the vacant constituencies on 24 June, since the law on election gives no ruling on the issue. Observers say however that they will be allowed to do so only if their election is ruled invalid through no fault of their own.

Report on Crimean Election Turnout

944K1753A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by unidentified KRYMSKAYA GAZETA correspondent: "Crimeans Are True to Their Choice"]

[Text] While it can be said that the first round of elections of the president of Ukraine took place in the Crimea without the battles, leaflet "wars," and heated passions on television and radio that are inherent in such an event, during the two weeks up to the runoff elections the "propaganda machine" was working at full speed. There were television meetings with presidential candidates, appeals in the mass media, and trips to the regions calculated to ready the remaining "reserves" for action. In the Crimea this was 37 percent of the voters who for various reasons did not take part in the voting in the first round of 26 June. And many heard the summons, came to the polling stations on 10 July, and made their choice. After all, this choice will determine who will be at the helm of the state for a full four years, what will happen with us, Crimeans, during this time, whether we will see changes, whether a better life will ensue....

The activism of the Crimeans in the second round of the elections was higher than in the first. According to preliminary reports, in 16 hours 59.7 percent of the voters took part in the elections of the president of Ukraine (we recall that it was 52 percent during this time in the first round). The highest activism was displayed by

voters of the Razdolnenskiy (69.9 percent), Nizhnegorskiy (68.7), Belogorskiy (67.1), Simferopolskiy (57.7), Krasnoperekopskiy (49 percent) Rayons, and Yalta (65.2 percent).

According to data of the district electoral commission of the Crimean Electoral District No. 1, 1,163,441 registered voters, which amounted to 72.4 percent, took part in the voting in the elections of the president of Ukraine in the Republic of Crimea. It was 63 percent in the first round.

Here is how the votes of the voters were distributed:

Leonid Kravchuk: "for" 103,119; "against"—1,055,694 (8.9 percent).

Leonid Kuchma: "for" 1,041,671; "against"—117,142 (89.7 percent).

The final results for Ukraine of the presidential elections will be published within several days.

On 10 July, the second round of elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea was held in four one-seat districts simultaneously with the elections of the president of Ukraine.

According to data of the Central Electoral Commission for elections to the Supreme Council of the Crimea, the following deputies were elected:

for Chapayevskiy Electoral District No. 6 (city of Yevpatoriya)—**Ye. Kirillov,**

for Livadiyskiy Electoral District No. 29 (city of Yalta)—**V.I. Maksimov,**

for Sevastopolskiy Electoral District No. 63—**G.S. Rubtsov,**

for Korabelnyy Electoral District No. 64 (city of Sevastopol)—**V.M. Kokhlov.**

Belarus

Government Announces Resignation Following Elections

LD1307131494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Minsk July 13 BELINFORM-TASS—The press service of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus announced today that the Government Presidium had met to adopt the following statement: "Following the election of the president of the Republic of Belarus and in keeping with the current legislation, the Government finds it necessary for the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus to tender its resignation to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus".

Supreme Soviet Rejects Kebich Resignation

LD1307201494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Presidium of Belarus has not accepted the resignation of Vyacheslaw Kebich from the post of chairman of the government and the resignations of the members of the cabinet. This was reported on Wednesday by the RIA agency. The Supreme Soviet Presidium instructed the government to carry out its functions until the first president of the republic is sworn in on 20 July.

I will remind you that Vyacheslaw Kebich submitted his resignation on 11 July immediately after the publication of the results of the Belarus presidential elections in which Alyaksandr Lukshenka was victorious.

Presidium Adopts Resolutions

WS1407102594 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 0630 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpt] At its session on 13 July, the Supreme Soviet Presidium considered the resignation of Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich and the members of the Council of Ministers. The government was instructed to carry out its duties until the president of the Republic is sworn in at an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet on 20 July. The issue of the resignation of the government headed by Vyachaslaw Kebich will probably be submitted for discussion by the Supreme Soviet at that time.

In relation to other matters, the Presidium adopted a resolution "On the takeover of all stations and sections of the railway bed, which are located on the territory of the Republic of Belarus but subordinated to the Lithuanian Railway." This resolution instructs the Cabinet of Ministers to take over, until 1 September 1994, all stations which are currently controlled by the Lithuanian side. In the event of a delay in the resolution of the Hadutsishki station issue, the Cabinet of Ministers was advised to consider the possibility of laying an additional (parallel) railway line on Belarusian territory in the area of the station.

To defend and secure the interests of the Republic of Belarus, the Presidium adopted a resolution "On property not liable to destatization and privatization." The document stipulates that the property of military units, enterprises, organizations, and institutions subordinated to the Defense Ministry, as well as state shares in economic entities which are founded by enterprises subordinated to the Defense Ministry, are not subject to destatization and privatization, except for property left by disbanded units or vacated by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The Presidium also adopted a resolution "On the Russian-Belarusian program for creating a general-purpose aircraft." This program was granted state status. The Ministry of Communications was appointed as the state contractor. It was recommended that the National Bank grant a credit to the Cabinet of Minister for putting new aviation equipment into production. The Cabinet of Ministers was charged with the task of earmarking funds in the state budget for designing and manufacturing a new civilian aircraft. [passage omitted]

President Lukashenka To Be Sworn in 20 Jul

LD1307131794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 13 Jul 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Yakov Alekseychik for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 13 TASS—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus today adopted the decision to convene an extraordinary session of the parliament on July 20 to swear in President-Elect Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

The Presidium took note of the statement of resignation by the Council of Ministers and instructed it to carry on the performance of its duties until the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet.

Lukashenka Holds First Post-Election News Conference

WS1307130094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 12 Jul 94

[News conference by Belarusian President-elect Alyaksandr Lukashenka with foreign and domestic reporters in Minsk on 12 July—recorded, in Russian]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] Have you already considered the issue of whom you would propose for the post of prime minister and which members of the team of former Prime Minister Kebich will remain in the new government?

[Lukashenka] You are always asking me this question, while I cannot answer it fully in light of certain circumstances. I will try to answer it at the Supreme Soviet session, which is scheduled to open on 20 July. We met today—[Supreme Soviet Chairman] Hryb, Kebich, and

Lukashenka—and we agreed that in this situation we cannot [words indistinct]. The session will be convened on 20 July, the president of Belarus will be sworn in, and we may make a proposal regarding the prime minister. Given that the session will be very short, lasting only a couple of days, we will probably propose only the candidacy of prime minister, and together we will start forming the government. Meanwhile, some candidacies have already been discussed. I do not want to hurry events; let us wait, for this is a very important moment. In light of the situation in the Republic, I cannot afford to remove the government and instantaneously replace it with new people. This, indeed, may bring about a collapse. That is why those people will resign whose names I have often mentioned. Perhaps it is easier to say who will stay. For sure, these are Linh, Myasnikovich, and Kenik. Those are deputy prime ministers who [words indistinct]. I want other deputy prime ministers to resign, for some of them have been in their posts for far too long. They may fail to understand what is going on. With regard to ministers, beginning 13 July we will try to not only assess them, but also discuss some candidates for ministerial posts. The entire presidential structure will be formed. We will form a small administration, the presidential apparatus, which will comprise intelligent young people, who are capable of working in the government. Our method is to appoint members of our team to the posts of ministers and deputy ministers. These people will form a kind of presidential think tank. This idea will definitely be discussed on 13 July, and the formation of this structure will be completed. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Belarusian Television reporter] You have just mentioned that work on signing the [monetary merger] treaty with Russia may take into account changes in the situation in Ukraine. Do you think that the future treaty may become tripartite?

[Lukashenka] Yes, this is what I meant. Still, we will not concentrate on Ukraine if the latter is not ready for this. We will then continue the negotiating process with Russia; we will do this very actively and efficiently to pass from signing protocols of intentions to concrete affairs.

[Reporter] What is your attitude toward the Belarusian Trade Union Federation?

[Lukashenka] My attitude is dubious—absolutely negative toward the leadership and very positive toward trade union members.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will there be market reform or will state regulation be stepped up, as compared to what we had earlier?

[Lukashenka] Please, do not equate the tightening of nuts and bolts in the economy and state regulation. I, as an economist, see a difference between these things. There will be state regulation, for even in market systems in other states there has always been state regulation. The degree of this regulation depends on the share of state property in the economy. The share of state property in Belarus is quite large. It is not my fault; it is probably your problem and mine that we have not reduced this share. We have driven the Republic's economy into a dead end and have such a high ratio of state property. Thus, we are going to manage this property and regulate many economic processes connected with this property and people working in the state sector. With regard to reform, I will tell you frankly that it could not be implemented in terms of privatization or other aspects, given the kind of leadership that we used to have. That leadership did not enjoy the people's trust. No matter what was being done to implement privatization, people considered this deception, embezzlement, the looting of state property and national wealth. That is why we need strong presidential power and an honest and decent government. We need new people. The new people have come. I do not want to say that these people are absolutely impeccable, but you cannot accuse the president of having appropriated something that belonged to someone else. Thus, we have the credit of people's trust and whatever sound measures can be taken toward reaching your model of market, we will take them. This will be done, however, solely in the interest of the people, of those who have cast their votes for me.

[Unidentified Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Lukashenka] Had you analyzed my speeches delivered in the Supreme Soviet dealing with the introduction of the national currency, you would have seen that I categorically opposed the latter. I am not an opponent of the introduction of the national currency; I simply saw that those politicians who had proposed this move had not even tried to estimate the consequences. The same thing happened in the Belovezhskaya forest—they came together and signed something—nobody knows what. There were no estimates regarding the future [words indistinct].

With regard to the introduction of the national currency, I can remind you of this process. In September 1993 we signed an agreement on the unification of monetary systems. Article 1 reads: The Russian ruble, printed by the Central Bank, shall be the only legal tender. Literally a couple of months later, Kebich and [National Bank Chairman] Bahdankevich submitted a document, the first article of which envisions that the Belarusian hare be the only legal tender on Belarusian territory. What kind of policy is that? I understand that Bahdankevich has always purposefully pursued this policy—I mentioned that at Supreme Soviet sessions. I do not, however, understand the actions of our prime minister, whose left hand knew not what his right hand was doing. We did introduce that zoo [reference to animal designs on Belarusian banknotes]. We were in the ruble zone; we had no customs barriers, and we were the first to make this step and put up those barriers. We had no tax fees, yet they appeared as a result of these actions. Having passed the law on the protection of the consumer market,

we made the first step. We are now heroically struggling to be admitted back to where we used to be not so long ago.

With regard to my standpoint on the national currency—I am an advocate of completing the negotiation process on the unification of monetary systems with Russia. I would be happy if we reached an agreement. If we do not, we will have to look for other options. I believe we will reach an agreement.

[Unidentified Moscow IZVESTIYA reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Lukashenka] You may call me what seems more convenient to you, but I still do not like the word sir. With regard to my interview with INTERFAX, your quote is not quite precise. I did say that those people, not only Vyachaslaw Kebich, may be put on trial. I said that with regard to many people. If there is enough evidence for these people to be brought up on charges, including those documents which you provided during the televised debate, and I hope you will provide more, then they will be prosecuted. I guarantee that.

[Unidentified Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Lukashenka] I think I am ready to become commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Second, I believe that my primary goal with regard to you, the Army, is how to prevent the large number of officers from abandoning the Armed Forces. I am going to accomplish this by resolving the entire complex of social problems, establishing ties with the Russian Army, and making our military-industrial complex work and receive military contracts, including contracts with Russia. The Russians are ready for this. We must resolve other problems, too, but primarily the social ones. Why is the officers' corps, the elite of the Army, abandoning the Armed Forces? We are now working on using Western investments to finance the construction of several thousand apartments for the military. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Moscow Ostankino Television reporter] [Words indistinct] and my second question is: What is your attitude toward the presidential election in Ukraine?

[Lukashenka] My attitude toward the election in Ukraine is positive. I have sent a cable to Leonid Kuchma; I am glad that he has been elected president of Ukraine. [passage omitted]

President-Elect on Economic, Political Course

MK1307111094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 28, 10-17 Jul 94 (Signed to press 12 Jul 94) p 10

[Interview with president-elect Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Larisa Sayenko, Ales Lipay in the "Elections" column: "Alyaksandr Lukashenka: 'All Are Populists—From Me to Clinton'"; in Minsk-Shklov; date not given]

[Excerpts] [MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] To what do you attribute your victory in the elections?

[Lukashenka] In effect, the simple Belorussian people have for the first time received a chance democratically to elect a president, maybe just as simple as themselves.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What will be your first steps as president?

[Lukashenka] First of all I intend to crack down on corruption and I shall start at the head—with those 70 top officials who figure in my lists. I may keep two or three people from the present government. These are Vice Premiers Syarhey Linh and Ivan Kenik. I have studied the problems of First Vice Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich. If everything if all right, Myasnikovich will stay on. All others will be dismissed. Let them go to their dachas, their mansions, until we have checked which sources they have used to build them. I am not going to bully anybody: If you have earned it, live in it; if you have stolen, give back.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Could you please elaborate on your planned cadre reshuffles?

[Lukashenka] It has already been decided whom to nominate to the leading posts, but so far I cannot name these people. As for the government apparatus, it is now in a panic, as though after an earthquake. The cadres are being intimidated. I want to say that I am not going to "massacre" these cadres. We shall keep them. But we shall kick out of the government all those who are implicated in any wrongdoing. I shall not keep either Lavitskiy or Kozlovskiy (Belorussia's [Belarus] KGB chairman and defense minister) in their posts. At the same time, I am very concerned by reports that some people have begun to evacuate truckfulls of stolen valuables. I have warned banks and other structures: Everything taken out of the country during this time they will have to bring back: Otherwise those who have assisted this export will be put on trial.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Who would you like to see as prime minister?

[Lukashenka] There are several candidacies. Yet this is a key post and so far I cannot disclose their names. I can only say that I am increasingly inclined to think that in the current situation the prime minister may be a person from the present government. [passage omitted]

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] You don't think that in order to preserve continuity of economic relations with Russia, it would be expedient to keep Kebich as prime minister?

[Lukashenka] This is out of the question. Generally, there is no need to play the Russian card. Russia has its own interests and Belorussia its own. Is it right when everything is taken out to Russia for a song? Why cannot

we regulate our relations with Russia? Kebich's personal friendship with Chernomyrdin is totally useless. The foreign economic course will be fully revised; it will be pursued exclusively in the pragmatic interests of our state.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Therefore you do not intend to sign an agreement on merging monetary systems with Russia in its present form?

[Lukashenka] I already signed that agreement last September and I consider it abnormal to revise it. The latest agreement signed in Minsk by Chernomyrdin and Kebich is a fig leaf calculated for the presidential campaign. I shall insist only on the version ratified by the Belorussian parliament. [passage omitted]

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] In view of this, how do you define foreign policy priorities?

[Lukashenka] We are ready for mutually beneficial cooperation with all states. But the main priority, of course, is Russia. After all, today 75 to 80 percent of our sales and supplies are "linked" with that country. One cannot fail to see this. Moreover, there is nowhere else we can reorient ourselves: The world market was divided long ago, and no one expects us in its Western part. [passage omitted]

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Is it true that you want to restore the USSR?

[Lukashenka] It is simply unrealistic to restore the USSR...although the fact that we have destroyed a great country does not do us credit. I hope that we shall find another formula for unification on the basis of independence and statehood.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] To what extent is integration with Russia possible?

[Lukashenka] To the utmost extent, insofar as economics is concerned. At the same time, it is impermissible for our enterprises to be controlled by Russia. [passage omitted]

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Are you not afraid of a parliamentary crisis?

[Lukashenka] Why should I be afraid of parliament? Both you and I know it from within. Many deputies simply orient themselves toward power. As long as Lukashenka has power, they will orient themselves toward Lukashenka. And then parliament will not last long: In six month at the most the people will make a new choice. So what is there for me to share out with it?

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What is your concept for economic reform?

[Lukashenka] I am not going to destroy anything today.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Neither the mechanism of privatization that has been set in motion?

[Lukashenka] Yes. Privatization in its present form will be suspended. It should be conducted above all for the benefit of those who have lost their savings deposits. We shall compensate for them, including with consumer goods. As for reform, we shall be encouraging manufacturers, including entrepreneurs who engage in production. At the same time we shall place speculators, hawkers, and profiteers in equal conditions with the state sector. If they survive, okay; if not, sorry folks, but this is the market. [passage omitted]

Press Coverage, Reaction to Lukashenka Victory

WS1307145294

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of how the major Belarusian newspapers on Warsaw Bureau coverage reported and commented on the victory by Alyaksandr Lukashenka over Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich in the 10 July presidential runoff elections. Since election returns were not available until after the Monday, 11 July, papers went to press, all coverage summarized below is taken from the 12 July editions of each paper.

Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian carries a postelection statement by Prime Minister Kebich, preliminary results of the presidential elections broken down by oblast, a BELINFORM report on Lukashenka's victory, and a 200-word commentary by Nikolay Shcherbachenya.

In his commentary, Shcherbachenya maintains that the primary reason for the Kebich defeat was "not in the miscalculations of Kebich's team during the election campaign, as was presented today, but in a continuing deterioration of the lives of most people, as well as the reign of lawlessness and administrative tyranny, especially at the local level." Continuing, the author states that by electing Lukashenka, the people expressed hope for "immediate and decisive steps of the highest official in the Republic" to fight against corruption and crime, as well as halt inflation and put Belarusian enterprises back to work, as was promised during the campaign. Shcherbachenya points out that despite the election rhetoric, that there will be no "sharp turns in the internal political life of the Republic." He notes: "Lukashenka, like Kebich, will continue on the course of strengthening and expanding economic links with Russia. Seemingly, he will not do that without the help of the primary core of the former administrative apparatus (of course, he will get rid of the most corrupt individuals). With regard to the remainder, it is my opinion that events will pursue the same course as before."

In its coverage of the election runoff, Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian publishes the Kebich postelection statement and two BELINFORM reports—on a news conference held at the Central Electoral Commission and on Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb's comments after the election. In addition, ZVYAZDA carries commentaries by columnists Valyantsin Zhdanko and Ihar Sinyakevich; People's Deputy Uladzimir Novik; Yuryy Drakakhrust, deputy director of the Independent

Institute for Social, Economic, and Political Research; and Yuriy Svirko, Minsk correspondent for the Latvian daily DIENA.

Zhdanko highlights the major facts of Lukashenka's political career and basic tenets of his election platform, and states that "immediate changes on the Olympus of political power" are expected in Minsk. Concluding, Zhdanko voices the following apprehension: "Unfortunately, it is not ruled out that in the immediate future, Belarusian society may become the object of yet another social experiment—of an attempt to reanimate the system of total state control over the economy by authoritarian means and to return the lost 'socialist achievements.'"

Sinyakevich argues that "the formula of Lukashenka's success" includes three main components: "discontent with the current political course," "popular slogans," and "an image of the people's 'defender.'" To corroborate this argument, Sinyakevich analyzes these components individually, stating that "the current political course" has lead to the economic deterioration of Belarus which, with the exception of Ukraine, lags far behind all the former Soviet republics. Zhdanko points out that the presidential platforms of Kebich and Lukashenka were virtually the same, but "Lukashenka's slogans were more resolute." Zhdanko adds that Lukashenka also won due to the fact that he was the man "who did not sign the Belavezha agreement" dissolving the USSR. Lukashenka also owes his victory, Zhdanko asserts, to his image of a "people's defender" and "peasants' son" which appealed to provincial electorate more strongly than the "refined and abstruse speeches of intellectual candidates" or Kebich's "reading from a page." Zhdanko affirms: "Lukashenka told the people what they wanted to hear. In addition, he spoke to them in jargon which they understood."

Novik argues that Lukashenka's victory will trigger "the complete separation of executive and legislative power" in Belarus. He explains: "I infer my conclusion primarily from the fact that 236 Supreme Soviet deputies supported Vyachaslaw Kebich, Lukashenka's opponent in the Belarusian presidential race. Thus, the majority of current Supreme Soviet deputies declared their sympathies for Kebich and will probably oppose the newly elected president." Furthermore, Novik adds: "Such circumstances will force Lukashenka and his team to call early legislative elections."

Drakakhrust states that by now Lukashenka has "the most legitimate authority among all the institutions of state power in Belarus." In Drakakhrust's opinion, however, due to the "impracticability and discrepancy" of Lukashenka's election promises, the 10 July elections may "rebound crushingly."

Svirko expresses hope that Lukashenka "will not be willing to transform his presidential post into that of a governor in the Russian Federation" and will avoid a "one-sided orientation toward the East." Given the people's support, Lukashenka has every chance of becoming a "Belarusian Walesa," Svirko affirms.

Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian carries a report on the preliminary presidential election returns, Kebich's resignation statement, and an editorial by Pavel Yakubovich on the Lukashenka victory.

Yakubovich states that Lukashenka won the elections because he "has upheld the expectations of the overwhelming majority of people." Congratulating Lukashenka on his victory, Yakubovich also voices two primary fears with regard to the subsequent development of events. First, he fears that Lukashenka's team may begin "squaring personal accounts" with their opponents. Second, Yakubovich asserts that Lukashenka's victory may be utilized by the "old nomenklatura" who had "retreated into commerce" but who now might be willing to return to power.

The daily newspaper of the Belarusian Defense Ministry, Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian, carries a 300-word report on the course of voting in military units and states that servicemen "have proven to be more conscious and active than civilian residents of Minsk" in terms of their greater election participation. The paper carries a purely factual repot on Lukashenka's victory, making no comment or speculating on any reasons behind the election results.

Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian publishes the preliminary election results and a commentary by Yakaw Yasepkin, one of its regular correspondents.

Yasepkin calls Lukashenka's success "a victory for the idea of integration" and states that such an outcome was "inevitable." Emphasizing the similarity of the Lukashenka and Kebich election platforms, Yasepkin maintains that Lukashenka won owing to the "consonance of his priorities with the people's aspirations" and to better use of opportunities during his two televised debates with Kebich.

Yeltsin, Lukashenka To Meet Early Aug

LD1307160894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 13 Jul 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] A telephone talk between the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Alyaksandr Lukashenka took place on Wednesday morning on the initiative of Belarus' new president. In the course of their conversation the parties reaffirmed their mutual strive to strengthen cooperation between two countries.

Yeltsin's press service reported to Interfax that a Russian-Belarusian summit would take place in the first decade of August at the request of Lukashenka.

Having informed Yeltsin about his intention to form a new government, Lukashenka underlined that he hopes for understanding and assistance of Russia in the economic sphere. He reassured Yeltsin that he understands the need to maintain close ties between Belarus and Russia.

Lukashenka believes that in its foreign policy Belarus should give priority "to the restoration of economic ties with Russia and other CIS countries." At his first press conference on Tuesday evening in Minsk Lukashenka also declared about his intention to actively work in order to draw foreign investments into the republic and to follow "non-nuclear status and neutrality."

He mentioned the work aimed at the stabilization of the country's financial system and continuation of the negotiation process with Russia on economic union among the most urgent measures. At the same time Lukashenka underlined that "the president's foreign activity will be conditioned by the country's economic interests."

Responding to Interfax, Lukashenka refused to call the name of the candidate to the post of the new head of the cabinet. Lukashenka is ready to preserve only three Vice Premiers, Mikhail Myasnikovich, Sergey Ling, and Ivan Kenik, given the present composition of the government. The president expressed his wish that all other vice premiers "should resign themselves without any promptness." IF Note: As it was reported earlier, the whole composition of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers presented a note on resignation on Tuesday morning. Vyacheslav Kebich, Lukashenka's contender at the presidential elections, declared about his resignation some time earlier. Sources close to Kebich reported that he intends to head the Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Trade-Financial Union. These new structures are being created on the basis of the Belarusian scientific-industrial association which unites the republic's largest enterprises and scientific institutes and on he basis of two republican unions, of the entrepreneurs and lessees.

Sources close to Lukashenka say that candidacies of the present Vice Premier and Economics Minister Sergey Ling and Belarusian Ambassador to Moscow Viktor Danilenko can be considered as contenders to the post of the head of the cabinet.

At the same time Lukashenka intends "to use the resourcefulness and the intellectual potential of the previous composition of the government" and "to thoroughly reform" the Council of Ministers. "This will be a long process," Lukashenka underlined.

Lukashenka reported that after his consultations with the parliament speaker Mechyslaw Hryb and former chairman of the Council of Ministers Kebich the parties reached an agreement to convene a special session of the Supreme Soviet at which the president's inauguration should take place.

Lukashenka pointed out that "he does not fear what relations he would have with the present composition of the parliament whose powers are to expire in the near term" but "he does not intend to initiate early elections."

In Lukashenka's words, he met information about Leonid Kuchma's victory at the presidential elections in Ukraine "with great satisfaction." Lukashenka expressed hope that "changes in Ukraine's leadership will help Belarus to negotiate with Russia more fruitfully." "We intend to go along the whole road of negotiations with Russia because Belarus cannot surmount the crisis without assistance of its major partner," he said.

He also declared that "he would not raise the issue on the withdrawal of Russian forces from the republic's territory."

When asked about his future relations with businessmen, Lukashenka reported that these relations will largely depend upon businessmen themselves, their contribution into the republic's economy which is still not great, he said.

Lukashenka Meets With Economic, Finance Officials

WS1407085594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The first Belarusian president began his working day yesterday by attending a session with National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich; Mikhail Myasnikovich, first deputy head of the still functioning government; Minister of Economy [as heard] Syarhey Linh; and Finance Minister Stsyapan Yanchuk. The economic situation in the Republic was discussed—the issues of funds, prices, and the functioning of the national economic sector. It is evident that in the immediate future it will be necessary to deregulate bread prices. Thus, it is important to provide targeted support for socially insecure groups. The problems of power supplies and the replenishment of the state treasury are also quite urgent.

Prospects for 'Presidential' Belarus Pondered

MM1307170594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Topical Commentary" by Lyudmila Maslyukova : "Belorussia [Belarus]: First Few Days of Presidential Republic"]

[Text] Minsk—The direct result of the elections that have been held was that the republic's people approved the actual institution of presidential power—arguments about its expediency had been seething in the country in spring of this year.

As has already been reported, the head of government resigned 11 June. In the footsteps of the prime minister,

the entire governmental cabinet expressed the same intention. Thus, as a consequence of the presidential elections, there was a government crisis. The resignation of the head of government has not yet been accepted by the Supreme Soviet, but, in principle, this does not change the situation.

According to the Belorussian Constitution, its first president comes to power after swearing the oath. By law, the inauguration ceremony must take place no later than within two months after the official calculation of the results of the elections. It is not out of the question that an extraordinary Supreme Soviet session will be convened next week. Along with the oath of the first president, appointments to key posts in the new government will, evidently, also take place there.

According to the republic's laws, the president proposes to the parliament candidates for the posts of premier, his deputies, the "power" ministers, and also the foreign and finance ministers. Who will they be? Before the elections, the then candidate Lukashenka was in the habit of answering this question as follows: They will be "people with brains," he would say. As is usually the case, it is primarily the members of the victor's team, who have accompanied him in the race from beginning to end, who are the contenders for this "honorable rank." Naturally, analysts are sifting through the contenders, and specific names are being named. It is known from unofficial sources that several people from the president's closest entourage are aspiring to the one post of foreign minister. The power received from the people has yet to be divided within the team, and the disposition of the new influential figures will be a separate subject in the republic's political life.

The powers of the Belorussian president are very significant: He is the head of state, he leads the executive power, and he is the commander in chief of the armed forces. However, the present code of laws does not provide for the creation of a vertical axis of the presidential branch of power from top to bottom. Two options are possible here: Either the president works with the existing soviets, or a law will be adopted on governors—the direct proteges of the president in the localities. What will happen exactly depends once again on the Belorussian Supreme Soviet, which had already deferred this problem until a future date, leaving the opportunity to choose one of a number of options.

Belorussia's stability and its immediate future will be determined in equal measure by the successfulness of forming a government cabinet and the first president's relations with parliament. The current speaker, Mechyslaw Hryb, is publicly advocating a speedy, rational, and lawful settlement of problems brought forth by the cardinal changes on the Belorussian political scene. Predicting the development of the situation, analysts are recalling that two-thirds of the Supreme Soviet were putting their signatures under the candidacy of Vyacheslav Kebich at the very beginning of the presidential "race."

The accession to power is undoubtedly an action which determines a great deal. But even that is only a prologue to the main thing that awaits President Aleksandr Lukashenka and his team. Three basic positions have been marked in their program: the fight against the impoverishment of the people's masses, the fight against corruption, and the campaign for a union with Russia. Will privatization be discontinued in Belorussia, as candidate Lukashenka promised? He championed the treaty with Russia which was put together in September 1993, rather than the documents which were signed in April and June of this year by Chernomyrdin and Kebich. Will the republic get rid of corrupt people strictly in accordance with the laws currently in effect, or "by revolution"?

On 10 July the Republic of Belorussia chose it future. The people put on the presidential "throne" a man who was able to express a feeling of offense and disillusionment with the results of the market reform. Millions of people are now pinning their hopes on Aleksandr Lukashenka who forcefully, intelligibly, and alluringly promised a better life by the end of this year.

Armenia

President, Others Receive Visiting UK Ambassador

NC1307212194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received British Ambassador to Armenia Brian Fall. Mr. Fall touched in detail upon the current state of Armenian-British relations, and noted specifically the productive outcome of the official visit paid by the Armenian president to London at the beginning of this year which substantially helped to improve the said relations. The ambassador also expressed his satisfaction at the recent harmonization of the CSCE and Russian plans on the solution of the Karabakh conflict.

In reply, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan highly assessed Ambassador Fall's personal contribution in the organization of the aforementioned visit and noted with satisfaction that the changes obtained as a result of the visit are permanent in nature.

An exchange of views followed on the possible contribution of Great Britain to the resolution of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, the recommissioning of the Armenian nuclear power plant, stabilization of the Armenian dram, and other issues.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan was present at the meeting.

Chairman of Parliament Babken Ararktsyan today received British Ambassador to the Russian Federation and Armenia Brian Fall at the latter's request. The ambassador conveyed to him an invitation to officially visit London sometime before the end of the year, and touched upon certain issues relating to the preparation of the visit.

In receiving the invitation with gratitude, the chairman of the parliament briefed Ambassador Fall on the upcoming schedule of the Supreme Council, and singled out the debate on the Constitution and the formulation of a new (?election law) as among the priority issues. Babken Ararktsyan also spoke on Armenia's economic situation, assessed the satisfactory tempo of the reforms, and the foreign factors preventing economic stabilization and growth. Detailed conversation developed on regional issues, specially on possible ways for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and on basic problems relating to the existing plans and mechanisms aimed at achieving such a solution. The well-grounded nature of the Armenian side's clear position and realism was noted.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan today received British Ambassador to Armenia Brian Fall. At the ambassador's request, the prime minister briefed him on the socioeconomic situation in Armenia and familiarized him with the economic reforms, progress of privatization, long- and short-term economic plans, problems relating to their implementation, the situation in agriculture, and other topics.

The prime minister added that despite difficult conditions, the aforementioned programs are being consistently implemented. Certain successes are noticeable, such as the activation of industry and production, and the stabilization of the dram. However, the passage to a market economy would not have been so socially exacting had the West been a bit more active in providing credits to Armenia and in making large investments.

The ambassador said that he will inform his government in detail about all these issues. Referring to the recommissioning of the Armenian nuclear power plant, Mr. Brian Fall noted that considering the determination of the Armenian authorities on this issue he will help organize assistance to ensure a high decree of the safety and reliability for the nuclear plant.

Azerbaijan

Karabakh Foreign Minister Starts Visit to France

NC1207182094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Arkadiy Gukasyan, foreign minister of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], left for France today for a working visit. It is expected that he will meet with officials, parliamentarians, and with representatives of French society and of the Armenian community.

The NKR Press and Information Department informed a SNARK reporter that Gukasyan will pay a similar visit to Germany.

Aliyev Makes Statement on Return From Saudi Arabia

NC1307200494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia between 9-13 July at the invitation of Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the king of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques. Politicians, economists, religious authorities, and experts will certainly express their views on the visit. But now we present the statement made by Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev on board the plane on the results of his visit.

[Begin Aliyev recording] I consider the results of the visit to be positive. Saudi Arabia holds a prominent place in the Islamic world and among the Arab countries, and is a leading force in many fields. This is an economically highly developed country which has occupied its deserved place in the world community. As an Islamic country, where Mecca and Medina, sacred for every

Moslem, are located, it is of great importance for Azerbaijan. As such, from the very start I gave enormous importance to this visit, and I now assess the results of the visit as positive.

The results are positive primarily in the sense that the ground has been prepared for multifaceted cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan. Before, we had no such opportunity. I believe that for the first time a good impression of Azerbaijan has been created in Saudi Arabia. I believe that our meetings and comprehensive talks with the Saudi Arabian leadership and particularly with Mr. 'Abd-al'Aziz, the king of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques, provided him with a large amount of information on Azerbaijan and new ideas on the present situation in Azerbaijan.

Cooperation agreements were signed between Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan in such fields as economy, science, culture, and technology.

In addition, the Saudi Arabian king obtained extensive information on Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, and expressed his principled stance. That is, he condemned Armenia's aggression and stated that henceforth in its relations with the world states his country would clearly set out its own principled position.

I think that all these factors testify to the positive results of this visit.

There were other important results too. The most important for me personally, as the president of Azerbaijan, was the visit to the Islamic world's holy places of worship, such as Mecca, the Kaaba, Medina, the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, and the worship in these holy places. I have had this wish in my heart for many long years. Now, this wish has been fulfilled. I consider myself fortunate in this. This was also a great event for the Azerbaijani people. The visit to such a holy place by the Azerbaijani president and the expression of his own deep feelings will also channel the entire people in this direction.

I am very pleased with this visit, I am returning to the homeland with great satisfaction. I think that my meetings with the king and other state officials will help consolidate Azerbaijan's positions among the world community.

Our talks on economic issues was successful. The king discussed this issue in the Cabinet of Ministers, and the [word indistinct] minister, acting for the king's name, informed us yesterday evening that on the orders of the king a plenipotentiary delegation from Saudi Arabia will arrive in Azerbaijan in the upcoming days to investigate the current economic situation in Azerbaijan, the situation arising from Armenia's aggression, and the refugee situation; it will get acquainted with the situation on the spot and will prepare a special report for the king, and following that our economic cooperation will be placed on a more businesslike foundation.

Therefore, I want to reiterate that the visit had very positive results and I am returning to my country with a feeling of great satisfaction.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy is to forge mutually advantageous ties with all the world states. We have never refrained from establishing ties with any state, excepting of course a number of hostile states. Therefore, for us there is no such thing as East and West. We are determined to forge mutually beneficial ties with the East and West, and South and North. This is the factor forming the foundation, the strategy, of our foreign policy.

In giving a concrete reply to your question, our relations with Western countries in no way hinders us from establishing ties with an Eastern country, nor does it constitute a contradiction. As regards Saudi Arabia, despite its membership in the Islamic union it has close ties with the Western countries. Saudi Arabia's ties with the United States are very intimate and close. As you know, during the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the Western countries and Saudi Arabia jointly defended Kuwait's interests and saved it from that calamity. Therefore, the readiness of the Saudi Arabian king to express his own principled position on Azerbaijan during his consultations with the West [words indistinct]. And I hope that it will be so. [end recording]

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev was welcomed at Baku's Bina Airport by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev; Prime Minister Suret Guseynov; Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Afiaddin Dzhalilov; state advisers Arif Rehimzade and Hidayet Orudzhiv; Deputy Prime Ministers Abbas Abbasov, Asker Mamedov and Samed Sadykhov; National Security Minister Neriman Imranov; Defense Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov; Interior Minister Ramil Yusupov; deputy prosecutor General Eldar Gasanov; ministers, and other officials.

Police Clash With 'Armed Group' in Belokanskiy Region

NC1407074694 Baku TURAN in English 1730 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Baku (July 13) TURAN—Over the past days the situation in the Belokanskiy region, 400 kilometres to the north-west of Baku, worsened. Several days ago the policemen confiscated there illegal guns, ammunitions, machine-guns, weapons, grenades, and one military personnel carrier. Meanwhile, nobody was arrested for illegal keeping of weapons.

The press centre of Musavat reports today that on July 11 there was an armed conflict between the police and the local armed group in the village of Gabakchel of the Belokanskiy region. One policeman is taken hostages. The village is beseiged.

According to unofficial information, several illegal separatist armed groups are located in the Belokanskiy region. Each group has dozens of armed persons. Several

sources report that the persons of Avar personality in the Belokanskiy region are allegedly paving the way for separation of north-western regions of Azerbaijan (Belokanskiy, Zakatalskiy, Kakhi) with their further entering Dagestan. The majority of the population of this region include Avars, Laks, Tsakhurs and people of other nationalities of Dagestan.

The village of Gabakchel, where the armed conflict took place, is one of the main bases of separatists.

Immediate Exchange of POW's With Armenia Proposed

LD1307164494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Azerbaijan is ready to start the process of exchanging hostages and prisoners of war with Armenia immediately, Namik Abbasov, chairman of the State Commission of Azerbaijan for Prisoners of War, has told INTERFAX. He made this statement in connection with a recent speech by the head of Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposing that an exchange of hostages and prisoners should begin. Azerbaijan, Abbasov stressed, has come forward with this kind of initiative several times already. The Azerbaijani diplomat accused Yerevan of concealing the true number of Azerbaijanis held prisoner. At the same time, he said that there are just 23 citizens of Armenia held in Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, around 4,000 Azerbaijanis have disappeared without trace in Armenia, Abbasov said.

Georgia

Agreement on Withdrawal of Forces From Kodor

NC1307210394 Yerevan SNARK in English 2002 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Sukhumi, 13 July (SNARK)—A final decision on withdrawal of Georgian armed forces out of Kodor ravine has been adopted today at negotiations of military commanders of Russian, Georgian and Abkhazian troops. This news was received by SNARK from the Defense Ministry of Abkhazian Republic.

However, according to the same source, still unresolved remains the issue with 850 volunteers whom Georgia intends to leave in former positions. As for the Georgian military equipment, due to difficulties with its transportation from Abkhazia, it was decided to destroy it in situ, in the presence of UN observers.

According to the agreement, after 2 or 3 days the Russian peace- keeping forces will be finally brought into the area of Kondor ravine and control the implementation of the present agreement.

Shevardnadze, Russian Ambassador Discuss Abkhazia

LD1307143194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, met with Vladimir Zemskiy, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia. They discussed developments in the peacekeeping process in Abkhazia.

It was that together with the positive trends there is a noticeable delay in the return of refugees to their homes. This could cause disappointment among the population. Therefore, supervision should be made stricter. The role of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be highly significant in the settlement of this problem. This is the chief issue. Only after this can Abkhazia's status be determined, the ambassador said. [passage omitted]

Abkhazian Advocates Ties Based on 'Interstate Agreements'

NC1307081894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1415 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 July (SNARK)—The relations between Abkhazia and Georgia must be built on the basis of interstate agreements, Igor Akhba, the [ambassador] plenipotentiary of Abkhazia to Russia, said during his interview to the SNARK News Agency.

Referring to the past four-lateral negotiations in Sochi, the plenipotentiary said the problem of the Abkhazia's status cannot be solved during one day, because until now, there have been a range of problems like the problems of the refugees' return and the position of Georgia, which is insisting on giving maximal rights to Abkhazia in case of adherence to integrity of Georgia.

Igor Akhba pointed out the necessity to continue negotiations on the status of Abkhazia.

Peacekeepers Refuse To Disarm Abkhaz Militants

LD1407092694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] According to the IBERIA news agency, peacekeeping troops stationed in Zugdidi rayon have detained a group of terrorists in the village of Jvari. A machine-gun and a submachine-gun have been confiscated.

Russian peacekeeping troops stationed in Gali rayon [Abkhazia] are not disarming Abkhaz militants on the pretext that the Abkhazian authorities have issued a decree permitting them to use firearms. Hence, armed Abkhazes detained within the 12-kilometer security zone are being sent beyond the boundaries of the zone with their guns still on them. Russian servicemen say they have no right to interfere in Abkhazia's internal affairs and, therefore, until the Abkhaz authorities annul the decree on the possession of firearms, Russian troops

cannot disarm Abkhaz militants and will simply keep sending them out of the security zone.

Nadibaidze on Military Relations With Russia

LD1307184994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Georgian Defense Minister Lieutenant-General Varden Nadibaidze said his country's military relations with Russia were developing in the best way possible.

He told Interfax on Wednesday that during their meeting in Moscow last week, his Russian counterpart, Pavel Grachev, "promised all forms of assistance in the development of the Georgian army, both material and technical support and an extensive program to train officers."

Nadibaidze said Georgia had begun to reduce its armed forces personnel to ultimately bring it down to no more than 15,000. "That is the optimum figure. It is as much as the country can afford and enough to guarantee its security," he said.

Commenting on Georgia's conflict with its breakaway region of Abkhazia, Nadibaidze said Georgia's position on the problem is "fairly close" to Russia's, both countries considering that "hostilities in Abkhazia must not be resumed under any circumstances." But "Grachev shares (our) position that the territorial integrity of Georgia must be preserved," he said.

Ajarian Leader Warns About Rest of Georgia

LD1307194794 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] TS-press agency reports, that Aslan Abashidze, the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, had a meeting with the heads of ministries and departments of the Autonomous Republic. He spoke about the current complex situation in Georgia and in Ajara, in particular.

There exist numerous facts proving a biased attitude of certain forces of the state structures towards Ajara. Armed units have been observed in areas adjacent to Ajara, who, in Aslan Abashidze's words, threaten the security of the population of the Autonomous Republic. Mr. Aslan Abashidze said that he had issued an edict on the setting up of special teams who would be sent to the rural areas of Ajara to warn the population about probable provocations.

Ajara is an integral part of Georgia and this must be apprehended by everyone, Aslan Abashidze said. In his words, it is necessary to make public truthful information about events occurring in Ajara in order that the population of Georgia have a better knowledge of what is happening in the Autonomous Republic and have no reason to accuse Ajara in separatism.

In connection with the current situation in Ajara, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, has told our correspondent that the information has not been confirmed by appropriate services. In case anything like this really takes place, the state will take all appropriate measures to prevent this.

Shevardnadze Orders Study of State of Affairs in Ajaria

LD1307194694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Information received from the head of state's press secretariat.

According to reports made public today by the republic's mass media, a statement addressed to the Georgian head of state, the Georgian Supreme Council, and the population of Georgia has been made at a meeting of representatives of the Ajaria population. Concern has been voiced in the statement that certain forces are trying to provoke destabilization in the Ajaria Autonomous Republic.

In this connection, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, has issued an order authorizing Igor Giorgadze, the head of the Georgian Security Service; Deputy Prosecutor Paichadze; Deputy Interior Minister Roman Gventsadze, and Deputy Prime Minister Avtandil Margiani, who supervises the government commissions on issues of the migration of the population in the republic, to study in a week's time the true state of affairs and take necessary measures to prevent unlawful activities that could provoke destabilization in Ajaria and other regions of Georgia.

Shevardnadze Signs Edict on Fighting Crime

LD1307185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze today signed a decree on immediate measures to fight crime designed to strengthen the role of the state as a guarantor of the safety of private citizens, improve legislation and mechanisms of its implementation and carry out urgent activities on a crime crackdown.

According to the decree, the Interim Emergency Committee under the head of the state is abolished. Instead, the decree sets up a special coordinating commission presided over by Shevardnadze. A member of parliament, Jaba Ioseliani, former head of the Interim Emergency Committee, will be his deputy. The commission's goal will be to coordinate the activities of defense, security and interior bodies, strengthen public order and ensure the political, economic and social stability.

Uncertainty Surrounds Extent of Foreign Debts

MM1307132394 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Amiran Mgeladze: "Finances: Georgia Owes Everyone and Is Paying No One"]

[Text] What is Georgia's total external debt today? I did not succeed in getting an answer to this question from the Finance Ministry. Devi Kodua, head of the Finance Ministry's Foreign Economic Relations Administration, explained that one has to distinguish between debts and credits, since every overdue credit becomes a debt, and said that Georgia has received the bulk of its credit from the European Community—120 million ECU's [European Currency Units] in the last three years ($170.5 million). China has issued targeted credits of 30 million yuan ($3 million) and Turkey issued $50 million, on which $336,000 is to be paid this year along with interest. The most chronic debt is to Austria—in 1989 $78 million was obtained in credit for the construction of the Metekhi Hotel and the overdue debts on that money amount to $350,000. This is compounded by debts for membership of various international organizations. For instance, $1 million to the Bank of the Netherlands, which paid Georgia's World Bank entrance and membership fees, etc.

"For the time being neither our departments, the national bank, nor the Ministry of Economics will give the amount owed to the former Soviet republics," Sergey Demidov, head of the [Russian] department for relations with the CIS countries, affirmed. "There is no unified system for keeping record of and settling debts. According to the country's national bank, Georgia owes Russia 28.4 billion rubles [R] in correspondent accounts and owes Kazakhstan R11.537 billion, but these sums are less than those that we are given by the CIS countries, and it is even harder to keep account of direct transfers and credits from one enterprise or organization to another, not to mention the debts left over from the breakup of the USSR. The republics have been unable as yet to reach agreement on this matter."

According to Georgian Deputy Finance Minister Nodar Bagrationi, there is a similar situation in all the former USSR republics where the banks are keeping tally—confirmation is needed from both sides in order for a certain sum to be entered as a debt. This is a technically complex and long job. At the moment, according to the deputy minister, all the CIS countries have claims against one another.

Estonia

Statement Assails Yeltsin Remarks on Troop Withdrawal

LD1307151194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] A statement of the Republic of Estonia has just arrived at the studio.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin announced at a news conference in Naples 10 June that Russia does not intend to withdraw its troops from Estonia by 31 August this year. The fact that President Boris Yeltsin has deviated from the obligations which Russia assumed, as well as from the standards of international law, is a deep disappointment to the Republic of Estonia.

The Republic of Estonia appeals to the countries of the world to convey to Russia that obligations assumed must be adhered to by the great powers. The state of Estonia is ready to stand up for its rights with all the diplomatic means at its disposal if necessary. Tallinn is always ready for meetings and talks with the Russian Federation. Estonia wishes to develop good-neighborly and lasting relations with the Russian Federation and welcomes the fact that President Yeltsin has agreed to a [Russian-Estonian] summit.

At the same time the Republic of Estonia must emphasize that hopes of dividing Estonian political forces are doomed because the Russian troop withdrawal by 31 August is the joint and irrefutable position of all the political parties.

The Republic of Estonia is not alone in its demands and need not have concerns about its future. The Estonian population is unanimous on this issue and the whole world public at large, as well as justice, is on our side.

The statement was signed by President Lennart Meri, Riigikogu Speaker Ulo Nugis, and Prime Minister Mart Laar.

Visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Meets President, Premier

WS1407101694 Tallinn BNS in English 1914 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, 13 Jul, BNS—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, continuing his Baltic trip with a visit to the Estonian capital, had meetings today with President Lennart Meri and Prime Minister Mart Laar.

The meeting with Meri at the presidential residence in Kadriorg, Tallinn, was also attended by Foreign Minister Juri Luik and delegations from both sides. Talks at Kadriorg focused on the Turkish-Estonian relations and their development in the future. Also discussed were issues related to the situation in the former Soviet Union's Central Asia, in Eastern Europe, as well as the representation of new democracies on the international arena, the presidential press office said. Meri after the meeting gave a dinner in honor of the Turkish minister.

Laar and Cetin discussed possibilities to develop contacts between the two countries in the fields of culture, economy, political and military cooperation, the government press office reported. Both parties noted that the countries had already become very good partners on international level and that efforts toward further promotion of these ties were to be continued. Already in preparation are agreements between Estonia and Turkey on avoiding double taxation, on trade and economic cooperation, as well as one on mutual protection of investments. Laar and Cetin today stressed that a free trade treaty should follow soon.

The Turkish foreign minister, reminding of long-standing relations between the two countries, said the first agreement signed by his country with Estonia dated back nearly 70 years. Turkey never formally recognized the Baltics' incorporation into the Soviet Union. Cetin expressed his strong support for Estonia's integration into all European structures, including NATO, and pointed out the importance of military cooperation with Turkey.

Laar and Cetin contended that it was vital to support democratic development in the independent states that were once formerly part of the Soviet Union, since this is the only way that the newly independent states can keep their sovereignty. The meeting also touched upon the topic of Ukraine, the ministers saying that active cooperation with Ukraine is a factor to support that country's development on the path of democracy and market economy. The Estonian premier also accepted an invitation by Cetin to visit Turkey. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Sign Agreements

LD1307135494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who is currently visiting Tallinn, and Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik signed an agreement today on cooperation in culture, education, science, and sport between the two countries. Having signed the Estonian-Turkish agreement, Hikmet Cetin left for a meeting with President Lennart Meri. [passage omitted] A meeting with Prime Minister Mart Laar has been planned for the Turkish foreign minister this afternoon and there will be a brief visit to the old town of Tallinn.

Broadcasting Official Complains About Advertising Rules

LD1307163194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar had a meeting with Rein Lang, the chairman of the board of the Estonian Broadcasting Union, who informed the leader of the government of problems arisen since the broadcasting law came into force. Both the Estonian Broadcasting

Union and Rein Lang hold the position that Estonian Radio and Estonian Television enjoy artificially created advantages as far as competition is concerned, ahead of privately owned stations. The State Competition Department has not fulfilled its obligations in ensuring fair competition on an equal footing. The Estonian Broadcasting Union would like the state to provide a clear evaluation of the advertising on Estonian Radio and Estonian Television [words indistinct], which worsens the situation for privately owned radio and television stations.

According to Lang, the prime minister took an understanding attitude to the issues raised and promised to facilitate the creation of a fair competition situation between public and private (?broadcasting) stations.

Latvia

Prime Minister Birkavs Submits Resignation 13 Jul

LD1307184494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs offered his resignation to President Guntis Ulmanis today. You will recall that last week one of the parties in the ruling coalition—the Peasant Party—officially announced it was leaving the coalition. Observers do not rule out the possibility that Birkavs's decision was linked to this. So far, we have no information about the Latvian president's reaction.

Further on Resignation

WS1407113494 Tallinn BNS in English 0900 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Riga, 14 July, BNS - Latvia's Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs announced his government's resignation Wednesday [13 July] over a political crisis triggered by his party's coalition partners. Birkavs made the announcement on Latvia's national television, adding that he plans to formally submit the resignation on Thursday.

"I hereby declare my resignation and that of the whole government," he said. "I cannot bear responsibility for this government anymore."

There was no immediate response from President Guntis Ulmanis.

The crisis in the 11-month-old Cabinet erupted earlier this week with the resignation of three ministers belonging to the junior coalition partner, the Farmers' Union, and its decision to quit the ruling coalition, news reports said. The Farmers' Union is accusing its partners, Birkavs' Latvian Way faction, of violating promises to support agriculture and ignoring demands to impose high customs duties on imported food and farm products. The Latvian Way holds 10 portfolios in the current government.

At a faction meeting Wednesday, the Latvian Way decided that the entire government should resign. It quoted faction chairman Andrejs Panteleevs as saying the Latvian Way might now try to form a new coalition, compose a minority government or move into "constructive opposition." That depends on whether President Ulmanis would entrust some Latvian Way member with forming a new government, he was quoted as saying.

The fall of the government could pave way for a more nationalist one. On Wednesday, several nationalist movements asked Ulmanis to dissolve parliament and announce early elections, but Ulmanis rejected the proposal, BNS said. Some nationalist parties, while ruling out a coalition with the Latvian Way—the largest parliament faction—also are saying that they are ready to form a new government.

Birkavs' Cabinet has signed a package of agreements with Russia, providing for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by 13 August and allowing the Russians to keep a radar facility in the Baltic Republic.

Peasants' Union Conditions for Forming Government

LD1407110294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] After the decision by the Latvian Way faction to dissolve the Cabinet of Ministers, Andris Rozentals, chairman of the Peasants' Union faction in the Saeima, expressed the view that the Latvian Peasants' Union is prepared to form a new government with the Latvian Way if it disposes of those ministers who take an ultraliberal market economy position, and also returns to the government declaration it signed. Rozentals believes that both groups must return to the government declaration, and by means of joint discussions must form the sort of government whose members would accept the government declaration. Rozentals declared that the main differences of opinion between the Latvian Peasants' Union and the Latvian Way concern the basic principles of the state economy.

According to the Constitution, the cabinet will continue working until the formation of a new government. To form the next government, the president must appoint a new prime minister, or the leader of the previous government must do so. After that it is necessary to convene an extraordinary session of the Saeima to appoint a new cabinet.

Officials View 'Very Successful' Clinton Visit, Talks

WS1407083994 Riga DIENA in Latvian 7 Jul 94 pp 1, 6

[Report by Aivars Ozolins: "The United States Declares Support for the Baltic States' Independence"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At a news conference summing up the results of his visit to Latvia, U.S. President Clinton affirmed once again that he is convinced about the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states by 31 August, and he was joined in this conviction by the Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, upon his arrival at Riga airport, told a CNN reporter that he is sure the Russian Army will leave Latvia by this date and expressed hope the troops will also leave Estonia.

Estonian President Lennart Meri, speaking about this issue at the news conference, was more reserved in his assessment. He said that the troop withdrawal is of importance not only to Latvians and Estonians, but also to the Russians. The date of 31 August is a "symbolic date" when the last ruins of the Second World War will be liquidated in Europe and a new era for Europe will begin, stated Meri. [passage omitted]

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, in an interview with Latvian television, assessed the talks as very successful. He was of the opinion that the visit of the U.S. President will encourage businessmen from the United States and other countries. At the same time, he expressed the view that President Clinton regards Russia's future development with excessive optimism. Therefore, the leaders of the Baltic states have made efforts to dispel his optimism. The leaders have also admitted how much the Baltic states would like to join NATO.

G. Ulmanis also emphasized that joining the NATO Partnership for Peace program is the first step toward strengthening national and regional security. According to him, the main goal would be to join formal NATO structures.

From the range of economic issues discussed at the meeting, development of the energy sector aimed at securing economic independence from the East was regarded as one of the priorities, stated the Latvian president. Social and educational problems were also discussed, as well as cooperation in the military field. Special attention was also paid to the crime situation in Latvia and the country's internal security.

Ojars Kalnins, Latvian ambassador to the United States, told DIENA that the United States regards organized crime as the greatest threat to the country's security. He also noted that during the talks, President Clinton did not accuse Latvia of "discriminating against minorities" nor did he express any assessments or proposals concerning the Latvian citizenship law.

In reply to a question from DIENA as to whether the adoption of the citizenship law will affect relations between Latvia and the United States, V. Birkavs said: "I think that it will not affect them, because we are resolving the citizenship matter in a very civilized manner... After all, we are going to remove the quotas in their present form." Birkavs said that the new wording of Article 14 would become known after Clinton's visit.

Minister of Economic Reforms Ojars Kehris also described the negotiations as very successful. He told DIENA that the prime minister drew applause from President Clinton for announcing that the inflation rate in Latvia is actually no higher than in the United States. Regarding the trade agreement as well as the agreement on protection of intellectual property rights, the minister said they have created a basis for even more successful commercial and economic relations between both countries and will permit the signing of other agreements —on development and mutual protection of investments and avoidance of double taxation. [passage omitted]

Ulmanis Not To Intervene in Government Crisis

LD1307151694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] First, a telephone conversation with President Guntis Ulmanis. Today State President Guntis Ulmanis met leaders of the factions in the Saeima. After the meeting, Guntis Ulmanis answered some questions from Latvian Radio by telephone. The first question: What was the purpose of the meeting?

[Begin Ulmanis recording] A year ago we had an agreement with all the faction leaders that the president should meet parliamentary deputies more often. Unfortunately, other circumstances have dictated and as we ourselves found today, we were meeting in extreme circumstances and exchanging views and ideas. In this case it was the question of the possible adoption of the citizenship law, the new version of those points which I sent back to the Saeima and asked to be reviewed. Today we received the possible options from the Saeima's legal service as to the directions in which it could be reviewed, and with nine faction leaders in all, those faction leaders who arrived, we had an exchange among ourselves.

[Unidentified correspondent] Another question: How do you comment on the current disharmony in the governing coalition, and how do you predict future events?

[Ulmanis] As far as the Peasants' Union announcement is concerned, I would not want to add or subtract anything. Anyway, it is an internal matter between the two factions, and if they are unable to find a unified economic policy or a state policy, if they are unable to find it, then they must agree as to whether they will go on working in coalition, and here I will in no way intervene at present. I think that at present in the Saeima there are very many clever and understanding and energetic people, and among them many are represented in the government. I hope they will find those correct and real solutions; the government must function and the parliament must function, and the president must look at how it all happens. Only in extreme cases must he come forward with his own proposals.

[Correspondent] You were elected to the Saeima from the Latvian Peasants' Union list. Does this limit you in your work from the Peasants' Union's point of view?.

[Ulmanis] No, no. I cannot be limited by the state or the Peasants' Union as to the events that are currently going on in our land. It must be said openly that I am always interested in, and meeting with, my colleagues in the Peasants' Union. I listen to them, but in any case I take no part in decisionmaking. I do not force my opinion on them, but I let them make their own decisions. [end recording]

Interior Minister, Polish Counterpart Sign Agreement

LD1407105894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] At the invitation of Internal Affairs Minister Girts Krisftovskis, a delegation of the Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs led by Minister Andrzej Milczanowski is visiting Latvia for three days. The Latvian and Polish interior ministers today signed a cooperation agreement incorporating 20 specific directions for the two countries' joint struggle against organized crime. The Polish side is prepared to receive Latvian policemen and border guard officers at its police and army colleges. Minister Krisftovskis has received an invitation to visit Poland in September.

Defense Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ukraine

LD1307132894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] In Kiev, the Latvian and Ukrainian defense ministers have signed a treaty on defense cooperation. It provides for participation in joint exercises and the exchange of information and staff, mutual consultations on security policy, and the issue of the Partnership for Peace program. The newspaper LABRIT reports that Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy and Latvian Defense Minister Pavlovskis spoke at a news conference about Latvia's possible paeticipation in maneuvers to take place in September in Poland. On Poland's behalf, Radetskyy has officially invited Latvian representatives to take part in this training. Pavlovskis replied that he cannot give an unequivoally positive response, as consultations are necessary. We remind you that this is the first treaty concluded by the Latvian defense Ministry with any CIS state.

Development of Latvian Armed Forces Eyed

MM1407084194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jul 94 p 3

["Military Review" by Vladimir Urban and Vasiliy Fatigarov: "'Green Berets' With a Kabul Cut. And All This in the Latvian Army"]

[Text] Latvia has an extremely unwieldy and convoluted defense organizational structure. The national Armed Forces include Defense Forces, Territorial troops (the notorious zemessardze), the State Security Service, and military formations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (a convoy regiment and a separate mobile police regiment). The commander and main staff, which are subordinate to the State Defense Council, are in charge of the Armed Forces. But on the whole all these organs and posts only exist on paper. Nobody has gotten round to establishing a main staff at the present time. The military control system at the defense minister-Defense Forces level (the minister for and commander of the Defense Forces are, moreover, both members of the State Defense Council) is more or less viable. Moreover, when a parliamentary commission was checking the armed forces last fall, Colonel Dainis Turlais, commander of the Defense Forces, received an surprise alarm signal from the State Council to the Armed Forces.

Is It Possible To Combine the Experience of Two Wars—the Vietnamese and the Afghan?

At the time, Turlais was sluggish even with regard to his choice of exercises. But basically no delays have occurred during the establishment of the regular army (i.e. the Defense Forces). According to the Constitution, the Armed Forces' main task is to monitor land and sea borders and the country's airspace. This is why of the 6,550 servicemen of the Defense Forces, the majority (3,800 soldiers and 340 officers) have been assigned to guarding the border. As far as the Air Force and Air Defense Forces are concerned, this is a matter for the future. The Marine Forces, according to the defense blueprint, will guard Latvia's territorial waters and the Baltic Sea economic zone. It is believed that Latvia's 15 ships and motor launches (six of which, incidentally, are currently being repaired or are in mothballs) should be sufficient to carry out this task.

Right now the attention of the Defense Forces' command is focused on servicemen's individual training and rallying subunits. Incidentally, this is a subject of particular concern to the leader of the Defense Ministry as well.

Minister Valdis Pavlovskis, despite being a civilian, has some military experience. His family left Riga in 1944, and after the war moved across the ocean. After graduating from university in the United States, he also went through a Marine Corps officers' school. He fought in Vietnam, commanded a company of marines, and served as an instructor at a military school. He then chose a civilian career. He became an activist for Latvian emigre organizations.

He returned to his homeland after Latvia had gained its independence and became first deputy defense minister. Last year, Pavlovskis was elected to the Saeima (parliament) on the list of the victorious "Latvian Way" coalition and confirmed as a minister. In speeches to

servicemen he has often related how he taught cadets about guerrilla tactics and the operations of the "Green Berets" special subunits.

Colonel Dainis Turlais made his military career in the Soviet Army. Prior to setting off for Latvia he studied at the General Staff Military School. And before this he was chief of an operations section of the 40th Army in Afghanistan. Last year Turlais and Pavlovskis jointly trained a special-purpose forces company for the first exercises by the armies of the Baltic countries. This took place at the Adazi training ground in Latvia, and the company has also taken part in tactical and sporting competitions "at home" where, having absorbed the combined "Vietnam-Afghanistan" experience of its leaders, it emerged victorious.

This year the situation has repeated itself. Some 150 servicemen from the Aluksne Motorized Rifle Battalion took part in the second Baltic exercises (which took place in southeast Estonia) and demonstrated their excellent training. And once again their training was supervised by Pavlovskis and Turlais.

The New Generation Chooses...

It is easy to trace the dynamics of the growth of the Latvian army's manpower. According to official data, on 3 April 1993 a total of 4,452 men were serving in the Defense Forces, including 436 officers. This figure has now increased by 2,000. The number of servicemen in the Border Guards, for example, has increased by 1,000. The border which has been strengthened most is the one with Russia and Belorussia [Belarus], where three of the seven existing border brigades battalions are based. The number of men serving in the navy has increased from 255 to 600.

The maximum strength of the Defense Forces is destined to be 9,000-10,000 servicemen. But according to calculations by Ministry of Defense staff specialists [mobisty], at the present time this is hardly feasible unless, of course, changes are made to the current rules governing recruitment into the army. First and foremost it is necessary to recruit men on extended military service to be instructors. But owing to a lack of resources this will only be possible in a couple of years' time.

Only citizens of the Republic may serve in the Army. Even though the leaders of the Ministry of Defense claim in their numerous interviews that the draft contingent in the country is much bigger than is required to bring the Defense Forces up to strength, in fact they are obliged to cut the number of men who are not eligible for the draft. Latvia was one of the first countries in the former Soviet Union to introduce alternative service, but owing to a lack of due control over those opting for "the alternative" it has been forced to abandon this plan. Labor service has been brought in to replace alternative service, but here too problems have arisen: The country is in the grip of unemployment and there is nowhere even for those who have been receiving unemployment benefit for months to apply their efforts. Consequently, new rules relating to the draft have now been prepared; under these, most of the "valid reasons" for potential recruits to avoid military service have been abolished. The Ministry of Defense is also proposing to introduce the necessary amendments to the law "On Compulsory State Service" dated 10 September 1991.

And what of the Army itself? If we look at items in the Riga press from 1992, say, and compare them with articles written this year, we can see a striking change in tone. Whereas back then ultrapatriotism prevailed ("The kind of irregularities which existed in the Soviet Army will not exist in our army"), now the newspapers are full of examples that tell a quite different story. About drunkenness, hazing, and desertion.

It seems that the personal participation of the minister for and commander of the Defense Forces in "training servicemen" will not be immediately sufficient for all the subunits of the young army. For the time being it is planned to beef up sanctions, including criminal proceedings, for disciplinary misdemeanors by soldiers and instructors. Let us see what happens next.

And After Us?

Our troops will leave Latvia by 31 August this year. Under the reciprocal agreement only the radar station at Skrunda will remain. The Soviet Union had 60,000 servicemen in this republic and 60 military installations. The majority of these bases are not required by the Defense Forces, of course, and the civilian authorities do not have the resources to develop them.

A number of government representatives believe that some of the installations which have a strategic significance (this information has been cited in the Latvian press) may be used as a "quid pro quo" for participation in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. This would apply to Liepaja military port—one of the most convenient in the Baltic—a number of airfields, and so forth. For the time being the Ministry of Defense is declining to comment in the light of the ambiguity of the situation. After all, the West is unlikely to accept proposals of this sort, realizing that this will complicate the already fraught relations between the Baltic and Russia.

A definitive strengthening of the military alliance between the three Baltic states is the most likely option. The defense policy blueprint approved by the Latvian Government also envisages this outcome. From NATO the Defense Forces are primarily expecting to receive weapons. Incidentally, the Americans, the Germans, and the Danes have always been responsive to requests of this nature (as first deputy minister, Pavlovskis has supervised precisely these questions and has always been very active). And now, with "Partnership for Peace," this is an absolute necessity, so to speak.

"When tackling a specific problem, it is better to teach the soldiers everything their commanders know," Pavlovskis stated recently. "We will not steer clear either of

Western or of Soviet experience, we will study the experience of all recent wars," Turlais commented further.

Lithuania

Polish, Lithuanian Premiers Discuss Relations

LD1407101994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Government's press representative announced that Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius had a telephone conversation with Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak Wednesday [13 July] evening. The conversation took place on the initiative of the head of the Lithuanian Government and lasted 20 minutes.

Prime Minister Pawlak was asked to ensure that Polish institutions create the most favorable conditions for the construction of a Lithuanian cultural center in Sejny. Both sides agreed to step up preparations for a free trade agreement. Polish experts intend to visit Lithuania for this purpose in August.

Much attention was devoted to improving the situation on the Lithuanian-Polish border. It was agreed that the border protection and customs services of the two countries will work in closer cooperation.

Prime Minister Pawlak said discussions are taking place in Polish political circles on ratification of the Lithuanian-Polish political treaty. It is expected that the treaty will be ratified when the Polish Sejm returns from its summer recess.

Prime Minister Slezevicius, recalling previous conversations, invited the Polish prime minister to visit Lithuania. The invitation was accepted with gratitude and it is expected that the head of the Polish Government will visit Lithuania in the fourth quarter of this year.

It was agreed that the prime ministers of the two neighbor states will constantly discuss common problems by telephone.

Slezevicius Wants Russian Military Transit Regulated

LD1307163294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Speaking of military transit, Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said in a radio broadcast today that this is a sensitive issue and it cannot be allowed to remain unregulated. He said that regulations regarding dangerous cargoes, including military transportation through Lithuanian territory, have been prepared. They will be applied to all countries without exception. The prime minister is convinced that it will be inadvertent to reject transportation that is useful to us. Transportation through Lithuania have been and are taking place all this time, but when there is no order there is no responsibility, claimed Adolfas Slezevicius. He said that we must exert control over all transportation and also air space [as heard].

In preparing transport regulations, the prime minister said, we made use of the experience of many countries. Experts from many countries have taken part in their preparation.

Meanwhile, the Board of the Christian Democratic Party has appealed to the members of the ruling Democratic Labor Party, urging them to influence their party leadership so that Russian military transit through Lithuania is not legalized. According to a statement made public today, if Lithuania signs a military transit agreement with Russia, Lithuania will be, in fact, included into the Russian strategic system in its military region between Belarus and the Kaliningrad region, and Lithuania's new dependence on Russia will be consolidated, reads the statement, by Christian Democratic Party.

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